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Note: The Soviet Union DAILY REPORT National Affairs Supplement was not published on 18 April.

U.S. 'HAWKS' URGE RENUNCIATION OF SALT II

LD172211 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1900 GMT 17 Apr 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Boris Kalyagin]

[Text] Many observers note that the attack on Libya is not some kind of isolated bellicose step by the present U.S. Administration, but the latest indication of its general aggressive approach to foreign policy. Let us recall Washington's provocative actions of just the recent period: the violation by U.S. ships of Soviet territorial waters off the Crimean coast, the shipment of the latest Stinger antiaircraft missiles to the Afghan dushmans and UNITA gangs in Angola, the nuclear bomb blast in Nevada, and the attempts to increase military aid for the Nicaraguan contras. And now Washington is duscussing whether it should perform another reckless action and renounce observance of the SALT II treaty, which, as everyone knows, was not ratified by the United States. U.S. President Reagan has held a special conference on this issue with his leading foreign policy advisers in the White House. At the end of May, sea trials of the eighth American atomic Trident-class missile-carrying submarine will begin. Here you see a previous test of a submarine of this class. It is fitted with 24 multiple-warhead ballistic missiles. [video shows submarine at sea, missile being launched from submerged vessel]

As a result of the commissioning of the latest missile-carrying submarine, named the Nevada, the United States will exceed the limit for missiles with multiple warheads fixed in the SALT II treaty, if they do not dismantle two old Poseidon-class atomic submarines at the same time. At the White House conference, contradictory views were expressed as to whether the United States should continue to adhere to the provisions of the SALT II treaty. Such Washington hawks as Secretary of Defense Weinberger, CIA Director Casey, and director of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency Adelman are demanding that observance of the agreement be renounced.

It is typical that, as THE WASHINGTON POST reports, even the U.S. naval command does not in principle object to the dismantling of two Poseidon submarines, since they have been in service for more than 22 years; they are obsolete and in need of major overhaul, and even after overhaul their service life will only be very brief. The supporters of a hard line, however, are insisting that these atomic submarines be kept in order to challenge the Soviet Union and to undermine the possibility of achieving any agreement limiting the arms race. And in order to justify this position, Washington has again started to talk about alleged violations of the SALT II treaty by the Soviet Union. These conjectures have already repeatedly been rebutted by Soviet representatives at the most authoritative level.

It is not surprising that the plans to wreck one of the few Soviet-American agreements remaining in force have aroused alarm even in the U.S. Congress: Fifty-two U.S. senators have sent President Reagan a message in which they insist that the treaty be observed. A similar letter has also been sent to the White House by more than 150 members of the House of Representatives. As UPI reports, the U.S. President will make a final decision in a few days, after the United States has consulted its allies.

WARSAW PACT DECLARATION REJECTS U.S. RAID ON LIBYA

PM171128 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 Apr 86 Second Edition p 1

[Text] The allied socialist states are expressing profound concern over the sharp aggravation of the international situation that has been provoked by the U.S. hostile actions against Libya. The barbarous bombing of peaceful Libyan cities by U.S. aircraft, in which innocent people became victims, is an act of direct aggression and gives rise to legitimate anger and indignation.

The piratic attack on the sovereign Arab state poses a real threat to peace not only in the southern Mediterranean. It is fraught with an uncontrolled escalation of international tension, which will inevitably have an adverse effect on the situation in Europe and throughout the world.

The Warsaw Treaty member-states resolutely reject the methods of conducting foreign policy by force, still less with weapons. It is precisely such methods along with the imperialist policy of aggression and diktat that breed violence and bring about favorable conditions for international terrorism, of which the socialist world is a principled opponent.

The interests of everyone and the interests of international security require an immediate end to any aggressive actions against Libya and the elimination of the dangerous seat of tension in the southern Mediterranean as soon as possible. The international community must raise its voice in defense of the Libyan people and of its inalienable right to tranquil life and independent development.

The governments and people of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, the Hungarian People's Republic, the German Democratic Republic, the Polish People's Republic, the Socialist Republic of Romania, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, and the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic are stating their solidarity with the people of Libya in its efforts to repulse the imperialist aggression.

At the same time the Warsaw Treaty member-states consider it necessary to emphasize that the current complex period in international relations demands of all states a particularly responsible approach, a display of restraint in politics, and active efforts aimed at keeping universal peace. It is precisely these goals that the fraternal socialist countries have been and will be guided by in their practical actions.

CEMA COOPERATION COMMITTEE MEETS IN MOSCOW

LD162120 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1233 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow, 15 Apr (TASS) -- The 38th sitting of the CEMA committee for cooperation in the field of planned activity opened today in Moscow.

The results of the coordination of the CEMA countries' national economic plans and of the capital investments for 1986-1990, the design of a coordinated plan of multilateral international measures for the same period, and the issues of ensuring the implementation of the Comprehensive Program of Scientific-Technical Progress of the CEMA Countries up to the Year 2000, as well as of cooperation in the field of big national economic problems are being discussed.

FURTHER REACTION TO U.S. ATTACK AGAINST LIBYA

Shevardnadze Message to UN

LD171705 Moscow TASS in English 1655 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Quotation marks as received]

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- Follows a full text of the address of Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR minister of foreign affairs, to the U.N. secretary general.

"Dear Mr. Secretary General,

I am addressing you on an especially important matter.

The situation in the south Mediterranean region has sharply deteriorated following the U.S. air attack on Libya and a threat has been created for universal peace and security. No matter what reasons the U.S. puts forward in an attempt to explain its actions, it is clear to us and to the world in general that it was a direct aggression against a sovereign state, a case of flagrant violation of the generally recognized norms of international relations, as well as of the U.N. Charter which directly prohibits the use of force against any country. This is how those actions are regarded by the Soviet Union.

These extremely dangerous actions can bring about a complete disarray in international relations. A very serious situation has taken shape".

"At present the problem is as follows: If urgent measures are not taken today for stopping the aggression against Libya, tomorrow any sovereign country can become the target of armed violence with all the consequences involved for world peace and security.

The Soviet leadership believes that in the present-day situation which is dangerous for the cause of peace it is important to take advantage of all the opportunities with a view to stopping the aggression and bringing back to normal the situation in the south Mediterranean region.

The United Nations Organization should make its contribution to it. You are certainly aware, Mr. Secretary General, of the steps taken by us, including at the Security Council. We should like to count on your taking advantage, on your part, of all the means that are at your disposal, of your personal authority and influence in order to prevent the deterioration of the situation and to immediately stop the use of armed force by the United States against Libya. You, Mr. Secretary General, can count in this respect on the complete support of the Soviet Union.

[Signed] Respectfully, Eduard Shevardnadze, USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs."

OAU Denounces Attack

LD162219 Moscow TASS in English 0901 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] New York April 16 TASS -- The Organization of African Unity has strongly denounced the bandit air attack of the U.S. on Libya.

A statement of the OAU Executive Secretariat published here Tuesday emphasized that by its barbarous actions the U.S. Administration had again demonstrated that it violated the norms of international law and the U.N. Charter. The OAU voiced its all-out support for and solidarity with the Libyan people and demanded that the U.S. stop acts of aggression.

LOMEYKO STRESSES SOVIET OPPOSITION TO TERRORISM

LD171643 Moscow TASS in English 1627 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- "The Soviet Union has been and is on principle against terrorism, both individual and state terrorism, which is particularly dangerous since whole peoples fall victim to it," Chief of the Press Department of the USSR Foreign Ministry Vladimir Lomeyko said at a briefing for Soviet and foreign reporters today. "The USSR has declared more than once that this disgraceful phenomenon poses danger to entire humanity, and that the USSR is ready to cooperate with all countries in eradicating this menace", he said.

"Acts of terrorism should not be viewed separately, without their interrelationship", Vladimir Lomeyko went on to say. "Violence breeds more violence. So this problem can be tackled only in a political way. The United States tries to present socialist countries as a side that has no wish to participate in combating terrorism", the spokesman for the Foreign Ministry said. "Attempts are even made as was the case with regard to the Libyan Jamahiriyah, to place the blame at the wrong door. It should not be forgotten that the beginning to the policy of international terrorism in the Middle East, for instance, was set by forcible occupation of Arab lands by Israel and by depriving the Arab people of Palestine of its national home", Vladimir Lomeyko said. "The aggressive actions of the U.S. Administration confirmed again that the United States continues the policy of state terrorism".

NATO NAVAL EXERCISES BEGIN IN DANISH WATERS

LD172111 Moscow TASS in English 1612 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Copenhagen April 17 TASS -- NATO naval exercises code-named "Blue Harrier-86" have started in Danish territorial waters in the Kattegat, Great and Little Belt straits, and will last till April 30. Taking part in them are 65 combat ships belonging to Denmark, the FRG, Norway, Britain, Belgium and Holland, including ships from the permanent NATO trawler squadron in the channel zone. Air support is provided by Danish and West German aircraft and NATO electronic reconnaissance planes. In all, the exercises involve 2,500 servicemen. NATO military spokesmen have said that the purpose of the exercise is to practice the interaction of ships when solving a number of tactical tasks, the Danish RITZAUS BUREAU news agency reports.

NONALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE HELD

Conference Previewed

NC151104 Moscow in Persian to Iran 1600 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Unattributed commentary: "The Friends and Foes of Iran and of Other Nonaligned Nations"]

[Text] Foreign ministers of nonaligned countries will meet in New Delhi, from 16 to 19 April, and the participants, including Iran, will study ways to confront U.S. foreign policy.

As you know, this policy has different aspects, among which are the nuclear blackmailing of nonaligned nations, the use of state terrorism, and, specifically, the policy of deploying aircraft carriers and imposing economic and commercial sanctions on nonaligned countries.

Iran has been the target of all aspects of U.S. foreign policy. After the victory of the 11 February revolution, a plan to inflict a nuclear blow on Iran, code-named "Thread Wire," was prepared by the Pentagon. The helicopters that landed U.S. commandos near Tabas took off from the U.S. aircraft carrier Nimitz, which was patrolling near Iranian territorial waters. Iran became a target of economic and commercial sanctions imposed by the United States, and most of these sanctions continue to be in force. The United States is resorting to the same methods against Libya and Nicaragua today.

All these prompt the nonaligned countries to seek a collective way to defend their independence and sovereignty. However, there are difficulties in this, too. Definitely, the so-called regional clashes in various parts of the world are a source of concern for the Nonaligned Movement since these hotbeds can spark off world clashes and create a suitable pretext for provocations and plots by the initiators of nuclear war. This fully applies to the Iran-Iraq war as well. This war that has been continuing for 6 years now, splits the ranks of the nonaligned nations, and grants a suitable pretext to the U.S. and its NATO allies to interfere in regional affairs and prepare for aggression in this region. It should be noted that there are forces in the U.S. Administration that primarily want to continue and to escalate the arms race in the future on the pretext of the need to control conflict between countries. As pointed out in the 15 March message by Mikhail Gorbachev, CPSU Central Committee general secretary, the Soviet Union opposes the linking of disarmament and regional clashes. Behind this act one can see both an unwillingness to move toward disarmament and a willingness to impose foreign wills on independent nations, as well as a willingness to impose systems and norms that can lead to the unjust existence of one group of nations through another and the exploitation of these nations' natural, human, and intellectual resources for the selfish and high-handed objectives of some countries or aggressive groups. Mikhail Gorbachev declared that the Soviet Union has always opposed this method. The Soviet Union is the persistent supporter of the freedom of nations, of peace and security, and of the consolidation of international rights. The Soviet Union's objective is not to escalate regional conflicts but to stop them through joint efforts and on the basis of just principles. The sooner these conflicts end, the better.

These ideas show that the interests of the Soviet Union, and of all the socialist nations, are fundamentally the same as that of the nonaligned nations. Consideration for the security and the peaceful future of nations are common principles to all the world and the invigoration of the international situation has become the pressing duty of all those who respect and cherish the fate of mankind.

Gandhi Addresses Opening Session

LD161744 Moscow TASS in English 1050 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] New Delhi April 16 TASS -- By TASS correspondents Vladimir Baydashin and Stanislav Sychev.

"The Non-Aligned Movement extends its firm support and solidarity to Libya in this critical hour," Rajiv Gandhi, prime minister of India and chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement, told the opening of the Coordinating Bureau's session here today.

The Non-Aligned Movement, he said, was based on the principles of peace and peaceful co-existence, national sovereignty, abstention from the use of force, and respect for international order.

Adherence to these principles was expanding the prospects of peace and international cooperation and strengthening the unity of the movement, Gandhi pointed out.

The chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement denounced the continuing race of arms, above all nuclear ones.

He said it was madness to spend annually trillions of dollars on arms. The nuclear arms race was leading towards the threat of nuclear war that would destroy human civilization.

The world was expecting that statesmen display wisdom and striving for peace in this dangerous situation, Gandhi pointed out.

In this connection, he welcomed the Soviet-American summit in Geneva and the joint statement on holding talks with a view to preventing the arms race in space and ending it on earth, and ultimately eliminating all nuclear weapons.

A moratorium on all nuclear testing should become a first element of disarmament, as urged in the initiative of six countries of five continents.

The Soviet Union positively responded to the appeal by suspending unilaterally all nuclear explosions and extending its moratorium twice. But the United States was going ahead with nuclear testing, Gandhi said.

He criticised the white-minority racist regime in South Africa and Western countries which back it, and called for compliance with the U.N. decisions on South Africa and Namibia.

The chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement came out in favour of the exercise of the inalienable right of the Arab people of Palestine and an end to the Israeli occupation of Arab territories.

He backed the Central American countries' right to choose the form of social, political and economic development without outside interference, and called for the solution of Central American problems within the framework of the Contadora agreement.

The chairman of the Non-Aligned Movement called on the West's industrialised nations to listen to the voice of reason and agree to a new international economic order on a fair and equitable basis.

He favoured the consolidation of the U.N. role and stressed the need for ending pressure on it that was being exerted by several Western nations.

The first-day speakers representing all regional groups and national liberation movements denounced the U.S. barbaric aggression against Libya and demanded that it be immediately stopped.

PRAVDA REVIEWS 6-12 APR INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

PM141521 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Apr 86 First Edition p 4

[Nikolay Kurdyumov "International Review"]

[Text] The past week demonstrated vividly and convincingly the two lines in international relations: the difference between the Soviet Union's peace-loving course, which was once again confirmed in M.S. Gorbacheav's speech in Tolyatti, and the militarist policy of the United States.

The week began in conditions where the Soviet moratorium on nuclear explosions was in operation, as it had been for more than 8 months. The Soviet Union had prolonged the moratorium and stated that it would refrain from nuclear tests until the first nuclear explosion in the United States. The world and American public called on President R. Reagan to follow the Soviet example and thereby lay the foundations for an important stage in international relations and pave the way for curbing the arms race. But Washington did not heed the voice of reason: on 10 April, the United States carried out a nuclear explosion at the Nevada test range.

It was a challenge to all mankind, in pursuit of the crazy idea of achieving military-stratgegic superiority over the Soviet Union. Naturally, in this situation our government could not remain unconcerned. It stated that from now on it is free of the self-imposed unilateral commitment to refrain from carrying out nuclear blasts. In conditions of Washington's continuing nuclear explosions, the Soviet state cannot forego its security or that of its allies.

The statement says: "It is the Soviet Government's profound conviction that the problem of banning nuclear weapon tests is one of the most urgent tasks of today, and the Soviet Union will continue to struggle persistently for its resolution in the interests of ensuring international security and a reliable peace without nuclear weapons."

A Path of Recklessness

On the eve of this year, reflecting on the subject of "How can the atmosphere of Geneva be preserved?" one of the editors of U.S. NEWS AND WORLD REPORT, a weekly which is very well disposed toward the Republican administration's policy, noted reasonably that one practical measure which the President could have taken even before Christmas would have been the decision to join in the moratorium on nuclear explosions declared unilaterally by the Soviet Union. Such a step "in the interests of mankind," he noted, would be greeted with approval throughout the world. As for the "arguments" of the moratorium's opponents, such as the assertions that the Soviet Union cannot be trusted, these, the article points out, are refuted by more than 20 years of experience of the Soviet Union's observance of the 1963 treaty banning nuclear tests in the three environments. The author also asks, why not "jump at" the Soviet Union's readiness for on-site verification?

Indeed, if we are guided by the accords reached in Geneva and the joint statement that there will be no winners in a nuclear war, it would appear natural for the U.S. Administration to support the Soviet moratorium and go halfway to meet the peoples' expectations. After all, it is quite obvious that the conclusion of an agreement between the USSR and the United States on ending nuclear explosions would be of truly tremendous significance. It would place a barrier in the path of the improvement of nuclear weapons and make it possible to get the entire nuclear disarmament process moving, besides doing an enormous amount to promote the creation and strengthening of mutual trust and the normalization of the political climate.

The United States thus had a truly historic opportunity to follow the USSR's example and renounce the holding of tests last year and this, and even after 31 March. But people in the American capital preferred to follow a different path. Trampling on the shoots of hope that many millions of people were nurturing in every corner of the planet, they gave the order for the next nuclear explosion to be carried out.

Washington's crazy actions and imperial disregard for the aspirations of the people, including their own, demonstrated graphically who is who in world politics. Who really pursues a line of strengthening universal security, and who undermines it in every way. It is no accident that throughout the world people of the most diverse views and social positions are today coming together in the opinion expressed by the Indian newspaper PATRIOT. "By carrying out a nuclear test in the Nevada desert, President Reagan not only demonstrated the gulf existing between the U.S. President's statements on the desire to end the arms race and his actual deeds, but also showed that he did not pay the least attention to world public opinion."

It is no secret -- and many American observers point to this -- that the reason for the challenging obstructionist U.S. position on the question of tests lies in the Pentagon's desire to create new, improved types of weapons, including nuclear-excited laser weapons, for the implementation of the program of preparation for "star wars." This is confirmed by the latest request to Congress to allocate $1.9 billion for the modernization of the nuclear testing range in Nevada. Thus the United States is carrying out an unprecedented buildup of its strike missile potential. Military expert Rear Admiral (Yu. Karrol), retired, believes that in refusing to stop tests, Washington is hoping to achieve military superiority. Moreover this is also noted by Defense Secretary C. Weinberger, as is clear from an article he published in the journal FOREIGN AFFAIRS, which formulates the directions of U.S. military policy for the nineties. Calling for the "introduction of new arms systems of the radical modification of existing ones," the Pentagon chief claims that the aim of this program of accelerated rearmament is for the United States to acquire superiority over the Soviet Union.

However, U.S. strategists are profoundly mistaken if they believe that the Soviet Union opposes the militarization of space and insists resolutely on the prohibition of space-strike weapons because of a fear of lagging behind. As the CPSU Central Committee general secretary stated at a meeting with workers in Tolyatti, it is time to stop building relations with the USSR on the basis of mistaken impressions and illusions. "One of the most dangerous of these illusions is that the Soviet Union's peaceful intentions and appeals are regarded as a sign of weakness. So this is how it is: You cannot exhaust us with the arms race, take us out of space, or outflank us in technology. No good will come of these attempts."

The Soviet Union will not allow itself to be caught unaware, and if necessary it will know how to find a convincing answer to the challenge issued to it, and not necessarily in space. But it is against that choice, against the absurd American logic of armaments. The Soviet Union is convinced that the road to peace and universal security lies not through building up arsenals of weapons, but through the quest for a way out of confrontation and the strengthening of trust. That is why it is in favor of a revival of the atmosphere of Geneva, in favor of a new summit meeting being a step forward and bringing practical results in the cause of ending the arms race.

Concern for Peace

In the great cause of the struggle against the nuclear threat, the Soviet Union invariably stands shoulder to shoulder with its true friends, the socialist countries. A concrete manifestation of this is the new initiative of the allied socialist countries -- the proposal on creating nuclear-free zones in Europe.

As is noted in the appeal of the Warsaw Pact states to the European states, the United States, and Canada which was published the other day, resolute actions are now more necessary than ever in order to stop the arms race, go over to disarmament, and eliminate the nuclear threat.

The total elimination of the medium-range missiles of the USSR and the United States in Europe would be an exceptionally important initial step in the cause of ridding the European Continent of nuclear weapons. Equally topical at present is the creation of nuclear-free zones on the continent where the level of nuclear confrontation is higher and the risk of the accidental outbreak of nuclear war is greater than anywhere else.

Noting that the governments of a number of other European states also advocate the creation of nuclear-free zones in various parts of Europe, the Warsaw Pact states proceed on the basis that the implementation of proposals on the creation of such zones and their effectiveness depend to a great degree on the attitude of other states, above all nuclear states, and their commitment to strictly respect the status of nuclear-free zones. They note that the USSR expresses readiness to grant appropriate guarantees to the nuclear-free zones, and they expect the same attitude from the United States, as well as Britain and France.

The allied states, the document notes, welcome the efforts of the states concerned to create a nuclear-free zone in northern Europe, come out in support of the creation of a zone free of nuclear weapons in the Balkans. The states also support Sweden's proposals to create a corridor free of nuclear battlefield weapons in Europe along the line where the Warsaw Pact and NATO states meet. In this connection, they believe that with a view to increasing the effectiveness of the corridor, it should be extended on both sides to take into account the tactical and technical characteristics of these weapons. The creation of such a corridor could begin with central Europe. Appealing to the states of Europe, the United States, and Canada to undertake energetic actions to implement proposals on creasting zones free of nuclear weapons, the Warsaw Pact states expressed the conviction that the creation of such zones would be an important step along the path toward ensuring the peoples' security and delivering Europe from nuclear weapons.

The world press is now widely discussing the USSR's proposal on the mutual withdrawal of the Soviet and U.S. naval fleets from the Mediterranean. This problem has become particularly topical now that the United States has started its latest campaign of threats against Libya and U.S. ships are being brought up to that country's shores.

Washington's Undeclared War

Alarming reports are constantly coming in from Central America where the situation is again becoming tense. The United States is expanding its military presence there and seeking to involve the Honduran Armed Forces in direct confrontation with Nicaragua.

Judging from press reports, the Pentagon is sending new contingents of troops to the Nicaraguan borders to take part in the latest military maneuvers. At the same time, Washington has officially confirmed the administration's decision to exercise military leadership of the activity of Nicaraguan "contra" gangs. A State Department spokesman admitted that servicemen from "Green Beret" subunits belonging to the special-purpose forces will be sent "as instructors" to the "contra" bases set up by the CIA and the Pentagon on Honduran territory.

This militarist activeness on the part of the Pentagon coincides with the debate in the U.S. Congress scheduled for the middle of the month, in the course of which the administration counts on pushing through the House of Representatives appropriations of many millions of dollars for military aid to the Somozist cutthroats and thereby "legitimizing" the further escalation of criminal aggression against Nicaragua. As is known, the House recently refused the White House demand for $100 million to be granted to the "contras;" however, the Senate supported the President's plan.

Congressman David Bonior (Democrat, from Michigan) noted that the "contra" gangs have already been granted a total near $100 million. Some $220 million was spent on military maneuvers by the United States and Honduras near Nicaragua's borders with the aim of intimidating that country. And a further $672 million has been paid out since 1981 in the form of military-economic aid to Honduras, which the Pentagon has turned into a bridgehead for provocations against the neighboring country. All these funds, the congressman warned, are a "subscription to a policy which will lead the United States to disaster." "Americans remember," D. Bonior said, "how we became involved in the Vietnam war step by step and dollar by dollar. We remember how advisers were followed by troops, and how 57,000 Americans then died. Now history is repeating itself."

THE NEW YORK TIMES observer T. (Shultz), for his part, points out, in his newspaper, the "sinister similarity of the premises" forming the basis of the U.S. interference in Cuba's affairs 25 years ago to Nicaragua's affairs today. "The 1979 Nicaraguan revolution," he writes, "brought broad social justice and concern for the Nicaraguan people, who had been reduced to poverty. The United States cannot ignore that fact, any more than it can ignore the profound patriotic sentiments of the Nicaraguan people, brought about, in particular, by former military interventions by the U.S. Marines."

The aggressive U.S. policy in Central America and the Washington administration's hostile acts against Nicaragua are causing profound concern and resolute condemnation among Latin Americans. This was confirmed, in particular, by a conference held in Panama recently of the foreign ministers of the Contadora Group countries and the Support Group, with the participation of representatives of five Latin American states. The ministers came out unanimously against foreign interference in the affairs of Central American countries and in favor of continuing talks with a view to achieving a comprehensive agreement on a peaceful settlement of the situation in the region.

The results of the Panama Conference show that the efforts of Washington, which gambles on military interference in the region, to torpedo the Contadora process are meeting with unswerving resistance from the Latin American states, who know from bitter experience about the imperialist habits of their northern neighbor. The facts show that the Nicaraguan people are fully determined to defend to the end their country's independence. They cannot be intimidated.

FURTHER REACTION TO U.S. BOMBING OF LIBYAN SITES

Sturua Assails U.S. Leaders

PM171704 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 Apr 86 Morning Edition p 5

[Melor Sturua article: "Washington 'Discotheque'"]

[Text] Pentagon chief Caspar Weinberger was clearly in an elated mood. He ordered another diagram to be hung up and confidently commented on it:

"This was the route taken by the F-111's from the Mildenhall, Lakenheath, and Upper Heyford bases in Britain; tanker aircraft followed this route, and they covered a total distance of 2,800 nautical miles..."

This was in the Oval Office of the White House. The defense secretary, assisted by Secretary of State Shultz, was telling newsmen about the barbaric, aggressive act just undertaken against Libya by Washington. One of the newspapermen remarked, "2,800 nautical miles is a hell of a long flight."

Weinberger agreed, but added: "The F-111's were refueled in flight. They have virtually unlimited range so long as they can be refueled. And they were refueled several times..."

As recent events in Libya have shown, there are also virtually no bounds to American imperialism's vandalism and hypocrisy.

Weinberger paid tribute the the air pirates' "great navigational skill." "All the targets were related to terrorist activity, and the criterion for selecting them was that they were wholly and completely linked with terrorists." According to preliminary figures, around 1,000 people have fallen victim to the aggression. They include children, women, and old people. The "nests of terrorism" turned out to be residential areas and even the embassies of countries harnessed to Washington by NATO. Criteria, Mr Weinberger? Your criteria are the "Reagan doctrine" and state terrorism carried out by Air Force and Navy Rambos. And after all you have done you contrived to answer correspondent Helen Thomas' question: "How many people do you believe were killed?" with a phrase of unimaginable scandalousness:

"It is not our understanding that we killed anybody."

Could the 500- and 2,000-pound bombs have been filled with Parma violets and Netherlands tulips?

The Pentagon chief, who has been christened "Cap the knife," although he brandishes much more terrifying weapons, even became lyrical, describing "good night targets with clearly defined outlines." Criminals always prefer to operate under cover of night. But no pitch-black night can hide the outlines -- clear as the Nuremburg tribunal -- of Washington's adventurist course.

Chauvinist fever is currently gripping the Washington "discotheque." Noisy instruments are thundering, laser illuminations flash. The blood of innocent victims drums in the head, sets it spinning, and pumps the adrenalin. And in the back rooms of the "discotheque" is a political casino where the roulette wheel of death spins and the stakes are systematically "hiked."

"Do you believe that we have settled the score with Libya, Sir?"

Sir -- George Shultz, this time -- replies: "It is not a question of settling the score." But here his glance fell on Weinberger's diagram, on these roulette wheels of death, and, contradicting himself, he continued: "They will have to pay....If the price has to be raised..."

There is more. When Shultz was describing the "success" of the piratical raid on Libya on the USIA's Worldnet program he was asked, or rather interrupted: "Is it really possible to describe as a success an operation resulting in the killing of women and children?" But this question did not disconcert the head of the U.S. foreign policy department in the least. Shultz "did not lose his cool." (He only lost his sense of conscience.) It transpires, according to his -- diplomatic or cannibalistic? -- logic that the Libyan children and women were to blame for their own deaths since -- listen to this -- they were in the vicinity of military facilities! Thus, according to Mr Shultz, the Libyan people are not masters in their own home. They evidently have to check with the Pentagon where to settle, where to "register themselves," in order, for God's sake, to avoid having the bombs of American vultures fall on them!

Monstrous! Of course. But when giving an interview to the CBS television company Shultz tried to outdo himself. To the question: "Has the raid really brought us closer to peace?" he replied without hesitation:

"Of course."

This, it transpires, is how they bring peace closer: with aggression against Libya, provocations against Nicaragua, subversive actions against Angola, aircraft carrier diplomacy and nuclear explosions in Nevada, "Stingers" in Afghanistan, and "star wars" in space. If this is bringing peace closer, what then is brinkmanship?

U.S. Vice President Bush, who has just returned from a visit to the Near East, also joined without delay in the Washington "discotheque" orgy. Admittedly he dwelt more on the La Belle discotheque in West Berlin, the explosion at which was used as the pretext for the aggression against Libya. Speaking on NBC television, Bush went on about proof of "the Libya connection." Roger Mudd, who was interviewing him, could not restrain himself:

"But you can't stir up the country by saying you have proof and not show it this proof!?"

Bush started to backtrack:

"I haven't done that. I haven't mentioned any proof in connection with this incident."

They have no proof, but they do have aircraft carriers. They have no proof, but they do have bombers. They have no proof, but they do have imperial ambitions. They have no proof, but they do have the CIA, which fabricates such proof. Finally, they have no proof, as they have no conscience or truth.

In his interview Bush tried to make himself out to be a reasonable person, if not a humanist. He said that he is opposed to an "indiscriminate approach" and favors "surgically precise measures." A butcher's cleaver? Come on! Why use that when there is a scalpel or even a laser scalpel? The laser-guided bombs have clearly lulled Mr Bush to sleep. What matter that they roused Tripoli and Banghazi and sent many of their inhabitants to eternal rest?

And, finally, there is the star of the Washington "discotheque" himself -- President Reagan. In his nationwide television address the President said: "We are not in conflict with the Libyan population." Who, then, was killed by the bombs dropped by the F-111's? People from another planet?

Not only was the President "not in conflict" with the Libyans in his speech, he even dared to say on their behalf: "The majority of Libyans now feel a sense of shame and revulsion" toward their leadership, he said. And this is said at a time when the entire Libyan people, united around their leadership, are feeling a sense of righteous anger and revulsion against the aggressors!

The boasting was accompanied by threats: "Today we did what had to be done. If necessary we will do it again." Necessary for whom -- for the neocolonialists, the aggressors, the military-industrial complex? The sentence cited above was followed by these words: "It gives me no pleasure at all to say that." No pleasure at all? What is going on then in the Washington "discotheque" if not an orgy by gentlemen of fortune on a state scale reveling in their actions?

In justification of the aggression against Libya, President Reagan cited the UN Charter and Article 51 of it on the right to self-defense. But what happened that day was a gross flouting of the UN Charter, international law, and common human morality. How symbolic it is that Vernon Walters, the chief American representative in the United Nations, was chosen by Reagan as his envoy for the talks with Thatcher on carrying out the strike against Libya from British air bases. Not for nothing was Walters a general and deputy director of the CIA.

"God bless you" is how President Reagan ended his speech. Today all mankind is cursing the aggressors. The Washington "discotheque" resembles paradise about as much as do the ruins of the bombed Libyan residential districts.

Reagan Cited on New Strike

PM171605 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Apr 86 First Edition p 6

[TASS report under general headline "Blinded by Chauvinism"]

[Text] Washington, 17 Apr -- Speaking at the White House on Wednesday, President Reagan extolled in every possible way the totally unprovoked gangsterlike attack on Libya. Presenting this action of state terrorism as a demonstration of U.S. determination "to fight for freedom and legality," he declared Washington's readiness to use force against Libya or any other country that may find itself on the list of those displeasing to the White House. "This speech was yet another warning to Libya," CBS-TV stressed.

On the same day the President sent Congress a message saying that the United States "could possibly have to strike against Libya again."

ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE OF DISCO BOMBING DENIED

LD171620 Moscow TASS in English 1606 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- "The United States bandit attack against Libya has clearly demonstrated the source of the danger to universal peace and security", a briefing was told today by Vladimir Lomeyko, head of the Press Department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR.

"It is the United States Administration that is responsible most of all for the whipping up of tension in the world", he told foreign and Soviet journalists at the Press Centre of the USSR Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the present time, in a bid to mislead world public opinion, the aggressor is trying to wriggle out, resorting to lies and slander. For instance, in the April 16, 1986 statement a spokesman for the U .S. Department of State alleged that the United States had urged the U.S.S.R. to cooperate in foiling the terrorist act committed in West Berlin April 5 and that if the Soviet side had reacted to that appeal the events would have developed differently and there would have been no need for the United States to resort to military action against Libya.

Such allegations are a cynical lie, Vladimir Lomeyko emphasized.

The Soviet side knew nothing of the contemplated terrorist act. "We posssessed no concrete information on this matter. If we had obtained it, we would have shared the information," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

The April 7 statement by the Soviet Embassy in Washington stressed that the Soviet Union resolutely denounced the terrorist act in West Berlin and reaffirmed that the Soviet Union remained a principled opponent of terrorism in all its forms and was prepared to act vigorously jointly with other nations in order to eliminate this repulsive phenomenon.

Simultaneously, the Soviet side warned most seriously against the use of the fact of the terrorist act as a pretext for heightening tension around Libya, Lomeyko pointed out.

Regrettably, he said, the latest developments showed that the United States did not listen to the voice of reason and the Soviet warnings.

'Hysteria' Meant To 'Dupe' Public

LD172040 Moscow TASS in English 1940 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- TASS News Analyst Leonid Ponomarov writes:

U.S. Defence Secretary Weinberger who had taken part in planning the perfidious bombing of Libya said in an interview to the C.B.S. television network that the U.S. air strikes had the purpose to teach a lesson. The wording by the Pentagon's chief is nothing new. It is used quite often by those who think only in categories of force and aggression. And who has been taught a "lesson" by the armada of U.S. bombers and planes basing on aircraft carriers? It is mainly peaceful people, among them tens of children, who fell victim to the raids on Tripoli and Banghazi. Unlike Weinberger, television cameras do not lie: As they are rotating, they show ruins of houses, huge shell-holes, fragments of U.S. bombs and rows of stretchers with bodies of women and children.

The bombs that were dropped on peaceful people in the dead of night weighed nearly one ton. Dozens of rockets were also fired. Such were the instruments used by the White House to teach a "lesson".

Holding a press conference jointly with the U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in the Oval Office on April 14, Weinberter boasted that "the attack was carried out precisely as planned, and was, as the President said, evidence of very great skill". The skill of what? Of how to kill innocent peaceful people by raiding a foreign country?

The head of the White House himself admitted on the same day that the air strikes on Libya "were concentrated and carefully targeted". What is "skill" according to Reagan, can be defined more precisely as cold-blooded murder.

Is this cruelty accidental in the policy of the present U.S. Administration? Not at all. It resorts to bloody reprisals even against Americans themselves.

One can recall the brutalities of the U.S. authorities in Philadelphia last May against members of the "MOVE" black organization. Eleven people, among them women and children, were burnt alive in a house on which the police dropped bombs from a helicopter. And the quarter adjoining the house was gutted by fire so that no one could return there. This brutality was perpetrated in the eyes of Philadelphia people. And the victims were American citizens whom the Washington administration claims to "protect" when resorting to outright violence and aggression in the international arena.

If the Pentagon's terminology is to be used, the Washington leaders, first of all, have taught themselves a lesson. And whether they want it or not, they will have to learn that lesson: The whole world is stigmatising those who dropped bombs on peaceful Libyan people, asleep at night, and those who ordered that horrible crime.

A chauvinistic hysteria is now deliberately whipped up in the USA so as to dupe the public and justify the crime. But nothing can erase that crime from the memory of people.

U.S. Envoy to UK Chides France

LD161642 Moscow TASS in English 1412 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] London April 16 TASS -- TASS correspondent Viktor Borodin reports:

Washington's ambassador to London, Charles Price, criticized here the French Government, which had refused to become an accomplice in the act of aggression against Libya. Price said in an interview to the BBC radio service that the Americans' displeasure was caused by the refusal of the French Government to give U.S. war planes the right of passage over French territory, thus forcing them to make a long detour.

TV Shows Libyan Victims

LD162017 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1444 GMT 16 Apr 86

[From "The World Today" program presented by Igor Kudrin]

[Text] Comrades, there is one subject which is a feature of the pages of the world's press. It is in every news bulletin on television and radio. That subject is the American Air Force's piratical raids on Libya. The U.S. President, speaking on television just 2 hours after the barbarous attack, spoke of the complete success of the operation as though it was another victory like that in Grenada. But up to then he had carefully concealed the premeditated act of aggression, hid it from his compatriots and congressmen -- to whom he reported secretly about the decision he had made to bomb, literally at precisely the time the aircraft with their deadly cargoes had already flown towards the Libyan shores.

The operation has been concluded for the moment, Reagan said, after the first bombardments, the first destruction and the first victims -- and again he was not speaking the truth. For, as is being reported, late yesterday evening the U.S. carrion crows carried out another raid on Tripoli. America lies officially not only to its compatriots and its own legislators, but also to its NATO allies, who have found themselves in an absolutely absurd position.

While General Vernon Walters was visiting West European capitals and having high-flown talks on the subject of -- what is your attitude toward our military action -- the actual action and terms of its execution had already been worked out to the last detail. So, it was a vain attempt by the NATO partners to persuade their colleague across the ocean of the possibility of refraining from aggression. The United States went ahead without their advice, without their good wishes and without their consent.

True, it is difficult to establish today who knew -- and what they knew -- in London, Brussels, Paris, and Rome. Judging by the fact that NATO bases on British territory were used for the raids, Thatcher knew what was going on.

It is not by chance that today the whole of the U.S. press and politicians, active and retired like Kissinger, are profuse in their compliments towards her. Here is a true ally, they are saying. Meanwhile, the heads of many governments on all continents, in one form or another, are condemning the barbarity, although in some cases they avoid the use of the word. U.S. F-111 planes did not get permission to fly to Libya over the territory of France, Spain, and Portugal. They had to make a detour and refuel in midair in order to drop their bombs on peaceful targets. Our people worked carefully and selectively, pursuing only military targets, only concentrations of terrorists, the President explained to the American people: We have tried to spare the peaceful population of Libya whom we have nothing against.

But these terrible pictures refute in the best possible way the words of the leader of a great power. It was precisely peaceful citizens, including women and children, who turned out to be the first victims of that terrible night raid. But, once the pilots had finished their dirty deed, the reactionary propaganda machine was brought into operation: We are protecting ourselves and the whole world against terrorism; the citizens of the United States support the President; the retribution was deserved; we will not be afraid to repeat the lesson. These are just some of the arguments of bourgeois scribblers who couldn't care less about the tragedy of the dead, injured, and mutilated. This was nothing more than a small surgical operation, one American politician called the act of brigandage. But surgeons are still working in Libyan hospitals, saving people who have suffered from the actions of a true, major terrorist on a state scale -- United States imperialism. [video shows bodies laid out in a row in a hospital; people feeling their way over ruined buildings; women and children sitting on grass; burned-out vehicles; injured being wheeled into a hospital, a close-up of injured woman on bed, long shot of hospital ward]

U.S. 'Military Actions' Recounted

LD161644 Moscow TASS in English 1452 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- After the Reagan administration took office the United States has undertaken a number of overt military actions against sovereign states located in various regions of the world.

On August 19, 1981 two U.S. F-14 aircraft shot down two Libyan planes during U.S. naval exercises in the Gulf of Sidra.

On August 28, 1983, the U.S. Marines stationed in Lebanon opened fire on the positions of Shi'ite militia detachments which are part of the national-patriotic forces of Lebanon.

On September 8, 1983, U.S. warships, among them the battleship Iowa bombarded a mountain area near Beirut -- the site of the positions of Druze militia detachments which are part of the national-patriotic forces of Lebanon.

On October 25, 1983, the USA barbarously occupied Grenada. Involved in the attack were U.S. ships and aircraft as well as more than two thousand Marines. Part of the American soldiers remain on the island up to this date.

On December 4, 1984, two U.S. combatant ships bombarded the outskirts of Beirut shortly before the withdrawal of the U.S. Marines from Lebanon.

On March 24, 1986, U.S. planes based on the aircraft carriers Saratoga, Coral Sea and America, which were taking part in the exercises in the Gulf of Sidra, attacked one of the air defence bases in Libya.

On March 25, 1986, the same combatant ships and aircraft of the USA fired "Harpoon" missiles on Libyan torpedo boats and a number of facilities of that country.

On April 15, 1986, U.S. F-111 bombers brought from U.S. bases from Britain and A-6 and A-7 planes taking off from the aircraft carriers Coral Sea and America delivered a strike at a number of military and civilian facilities in Libya, as a result of which civilians were killed or wounded.

The White House is also conducting an undeclared war against the peoples of Afghanistan, Angola, Mozambique, Nicaragua, and El Salvador. Washington's undeclared war is resulting in tragedy for the peoples of those countries: tens of thousands of civilians have been killed, and hundreds of important industrial facilities have been destroyed.

'Act of Banditry' Deplored

LD161652 Moscow TASS in English 1458 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- By TASS commentator Grigoriy Vasilyev: The United States has committed an act of international banditry against the sovereign Libyan Jamahiriyah.

The Libyan capital has come under three barbarous bombing runs by U.S. aircraft. An aerial attack has been staged also on the city of Banghazi. The bombardments have left dozens of civilians killed or wounded and caused considerable destruction.

Washington has used a recent blast in a West Berlin disco, in which U.S. servicemen have been among the casualties, as the pretext for its armed aggression against Libya.

The U.S. Administration has imputed that act of terrorism to Libya immediately, although it does not have any proof to back up the accusation.

Washington has also ignored the Libyan leadership's public denials of that charge and its strong condemnation of all forms of terrorism.

No matter how hard the White House is trying to justify its banditry with far-fetched and false charges, this effort is clearly in vain.

It is enough to take even a cursory look at Washington's actions to realize that armed aggression against the Libyan Jamahiriyah has been a direct consequence of a vicious anti-Libyan campaign the Reagan administration has maintained for a long time.

The U.S. press has published repeated reports about plans to strike at Libya and U.S. officials have been calling for the elimination of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution.

The independent course steered by the Libyan Jamahiriyah, which refused to obey U.S.-Zionist dictates, rejects separate-deal options for a Middle Easte settlement, which would be to the detriment of the Arabs, and stands for a just and enduring peace in the region, is obvipusly not to the liking of U.S. imperialists quarters.

Blinded by hatred to Tripoli, Washington is trying to enlist its NATO allies in the anti-Libyan campaign and set other Arab nations on Libya.

The influential Cairo-based newspaper AL-AHRAM reported that the United States has pressed Egypt to join its anti-Libyan sanctions for long but Egypt has thrice refused to take part in military action against Libya.

The criminal attack on the Libyan Jamahiriyah has been a carefully planned act of aggression in keeping with the U.S. "neoglobalist" doctrine aimed at subordinating whole countries and regions to Washington's imperial ambitions.

The Soviet Union and broad sections of people elsewhere in the world condemn the latest crime by U.S. imperialists. The Soviet Government said in a statement:

"American aggression is a brazen and open challenge to the entire world public opinion. No matter what 'arguments' are now being used in Washington, the fact remains that it is exactly the administration of the United States that is mainly responsible for the aggravation of tension in the world and is irresponsibly playing with the fate of millions of people."

Demichev Reproves 'New Globalism'

LD161913 Moscow TASS in English 1600 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- The U.S. barbarous bombing of Libya's capital, Tripoli, and the city of Banghazi has stemmed from the American concept of "new globalism", Petr Demichev, alternate member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee and minister for culture of the USSR, has stated. He today spoke at the opening of the 42nd session of the Soviet Academy of Arts in Moscow.

"The reactionary forces will not succeed, however, in reversing the principal trend of mankind's progressive development, which is determined in the 20th century by liberation revolutions and the advancement of world socialism," the minister said.

'True Character' of U.S. Policy Shown

LD162152 Moscow World Servdice in English 1610 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Observer Mikhail Glebov report]

[Excerpts] The American bombing of Libyan cities has demonstrated to the whole world the true character of Washington's foreign policy. Here's what our observer, Mikhail Glebov, writes:

The administration claimed the raids were an act of self-defense, but defense against whom? Was the Libyan Army threatening the United States or had Libyan warships massed in the Gulf of Mexico ready for an assault? The raids were ostensibly carried out to punish the Libyans for the recent bomb explosion at a West Berlin discotheque, for which, according to the American version, they were responsible. However, a spokesman for the West Berlin police stated there was no evidence of any Libyan involvement. Indeed Libya itself has officially denounced such terrorist acts. And a caller who phoned REUTERS news agency claimed the bomb had been planged by the so-called Holger-Meins squad, an organization with neo-Nazi connections.

But the American response to these hard facts was the same hackneyed set of vague insinuations and verbal attacks against Libya. And this time too, just as on previous occasions, no proof was forthcoming. So all the American assertions about self-defense and fighting terrorism do not hold water. What we are seeing is American aggression against Libya: aggression that has a long history.

Today of course the methods have changed but the essence of the plans remains. Last year details were leaked to the American press of a secret memorandum that envisaged military strikes at Libya designed to destabilize and eventually topple its government. These are vivid examples of terrorism and a terrorism not on the part of some organization, but on the part of the major Western power. According to the American logic, Libya ought simply to accept its dependent role and then everything would be okay. And since the Libyans refuse, they should be forced to do so and their government should be removed. This latest attack on Libya might be seen as a lesson to the whole world. This is how we are going to deal with those who don't obey us. It was the President himself who said in one of his global over-views that there would be no war so long as everything went as the Americans wanted it to. Now these words have been translated into the language of bombs.

The raids on Libya reveal the sinister shape of American global strategy. The whole world should live according to rules that are to Washington's liking. And as to those who do not wish to toe the American line, well, any measures are good against them, for aid to antigovernment rebels as in Nicaragua and Angola, to direct strikes as was the case with Grenada and now with Libya. During World War II the fascists devised a terrible thing. In a bid to intimidate the population and break resistance to aggression, they staged so-called exemplary punishments. They chose any settlement and destroyed it with all its inhabitants. But isn't the bombing by American warplanes of Libyan cities in which dozens of civilians died, isn't this that some old tactic? The only difference is perhaps that today we're seeing an attempt to intimidate entire nations and even the whole world. It's hard to imagine a more primitive and at the same time, more arrogant, position in the world of today when the greatest value is considered that to be that of independence.

Lies Accompany 'Piratic' Act

LD161908 Moscow TASS in English 1649 GMT 16 Apr 86

["USA: Piracy Hand-in-Hand With Lies" -- TASS identifier]

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- TASS Political News Analyst Vladimir Goncharov writes:

As was usually the case in the past, the new U.S. aggression, piratic air strikes against Libya, is accompanied with lies -- lies by various U.S. governmental news agencies by high Washington officials. There is a spate of examples. We shall dwell on only some of them.

Following the White House, all U.S. official propaganda bodies without exception assert that air strikes were dealt at "military facilities -- bases of terrorism. U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger even boasted that as a result of the use of laser-guided weapons the air strikes were highly accurate. But was it so? It is residential areas of the Libyan capital that actually become targets of U.S. bombing, and this is reported by many media of various countries.

Japan's ambassador to Libya, for instance, described the bombing by U.S. planes of the residential area where he himself resides. He said that he had seen numerous victims -- civilians. The buildings of the embassies of several countries, including Romania, France, FRG, Greece, Switzerland were damaged as a result of the U.S. piratic action (so, by Washington's logic, these diplomatic missions are "bases of terrorism").

And what about the loss of life caused by the U.S. raids? The governmental radio station "Voice of America" this morning tried to convince the world that it was just over 10-15 people. Meanwhile, according to reports of many foreign agencies, over 100 people were killed. And the actual number might be several hundred, since U.S. bombs destroyed up to 100 houses.

There are women and children among the casualties -- "terrorists", indeed. And the total number of victims reaches a thousand, not only Libyans but also foreigners among them. Two young children of the leader of the Libyan revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi are among the victims.. His 16-month-old adopted daughter was killed.

And one more lie by the White House, the Pentagon and U.S. propagandists. They assert that there was no raid of U.S. planes on Tripoli in the evening of April 15. Meanwhile, the raid was reported not only by the Libyan sources but also by many others, for instance, a spokesman for the Spanish Embassy to Libya, who gave an interview to Madrid television. The same is shown by reports that came from London.

Brazen U.S. lies bespeak above all Washington's striving to play down the scope of U.S. crimes, Washington's striving to misrepresent their real aims in order to whitewash the U.S. policy of aggression that is dangerous for the whole world, the policy aimed at a gross aggravation of international tension. But these are futile efforts. Despite the tricks and manoeuvres of U.S. propaganda, the world public will not be misled. Anger and indignation over the United States piratic actions are growing in all countries, just as contempt for the liars.

'Operation of Intimidation'

LD170142 Moscow Television Service in Russian 1700 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Gennadiy Gerasimov report; from the "Vremya" newscast]

[Text] Hello, comrades. The crime was announced in advance. We saw on television the aircraft carriers warming up. Those pictures became almost a matter of course. And look at this banner headline in a U.S. magazine: "America to World: Have Power, Will Use." It is an original sort of cause-and-effect link: If I can, then I want to. The doctrine: that everything is permitted.

And yet one could not quite believe that the attack would happen. Kate Adie, a BBC correspondent who visited the ruins, bodies, and wounded in Tripoli, reported that even after the bombing people were still refusing to believe what had happened. Why such piracy? -- they, and the world, are asking.

The U.S. has to answer that question. After all, in the international community it is not the law of the jungle, not the right of the mighty, but international law that reigns. Accordingly, the U.S. President appeared on television with his explanations. He again accused Libya of terrorism, of the explosion in the West Berlin discotheque, as though the threads lead back to Tripoli, although Tripoli has condemned both that explosion and terrorism in general. At any rate, in civilized society, people do not take the law into their own hands, they do not resort to lynch law. It is in cowboy films that arguments are resolved by drawing Colts from belts.

If everyone starts deciding, like a sheriff in the Wild West, whom to execute, whom to pardon, international relations will be ruled by chaos and lawlessness.

The President referred to the right to self-defense in Article 51 of the UN Charter. But it speaks of such a right in the event of an armed attack on a UN member. Libya has not attacked the United States. And nor could it -- Libya is far away from the United States. But it is not far from the U.S. aircraft carriers to Libya. We are speaking about an act of state terrorism.

Among the targets of the raid was the area where the head of state was supposed to be. And what the White House called carefully planned air strikes turned out to be the bombing of residential areas by brave warriors. They used an axe, and called it a surgical operation.

The American moralists have brought about a second Guernica. It was an operation of intimidation, so that the world should know that the United States has a strong fist. It may be a strong fist, but whereas they used to speak of America's arrogance and self-sufficiency of strength, now it is time to speak of madness of strength. This is the Reagan doctrine in action, the notorious neoglobalism in practice.

Even Washington's close allies consider that bombing is no answer to the problem of terrorism -- that is, apart from Britain, which kindly allowed the U.S. bombers to set off on their mission from bases on British territory, and became an accomplice in the crime.

The world is deeply outraged. The world is seized with justified anger.

Spirit of Geneva Undermined

LD162108 Moscow TASS in English 2034 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- TASS political news analyst Igor Orlov writes:

The events of the latest days showed clearly to the world community who it is that bears the responsibility for the extremely dangerous heightening of international tension which is frought with serious threat to universal peace and security. A thoroughly planned piratic attack of the USA on Libya that entailed loss of life and caused considerable material damage to that independent sovereign Arab state evoked justifiable indignation in the world. The aggression against Libya showed Washington's disregard for the interests of smaller peoples and states, particularly those who prefer to take the chosen road and who refuses to yield to the diktat of U.S. monopolies.

The events off the Libyan coasts showed clearly how Washington, implementing the imperial doctrine of "new globalism", replaced gunboat diplomacy with aircraft carrier diplomacy. There are many other facts of the United States heightening international tension. They attest to Washington's persistent course at the aggravation of existing regional conflicts and provoking new ones, at the perpetuation of confrontation and balancing on the brink of war.

By its attack on Libya Washington showed its approach to cardinal international problems of the present.

This is why in many statements of the world press this attack is qualified as a link in the chain of the United States arrogant and provocative actions taken in reply to the well-known peace initiative of the Soviet Union. These actions are aimed at frustrating the quest of the ways to improve international relations, at rolling back the positive trends and dashing the hopes that were kindled by the Geneva meeting.

Indeed, suffice it to recall such an important problem as a ban on nuclear weapon tests, the problem to which the attention of the world public is riveted. The Soviet Union twice extended the operation of its moratorium, though it was not easy for understandable reasons. Washington deliberately disregarded the opportunities offered to it to confirm by deeds its statements about the striving for a world without nuclear arms.

Despite the avalanch of protests, the United States conducted a fresh nuclear explosion in Nevada which is assessed everywhere as outright defiance not only to the Soviet Union but also to the whole world. This compelled the USSR to regard itself no longer bound by the unilateral moratorium. At the same time, Moscow, as before, expressed the readiness to return to the question of mutual moratorium on nuclear explosions anytime, if the U.S. Government declares that it will keep from conducting such explosions.

The aggression against Libya has not left the slightest doubt that it is precisely the U.S. Administration that is chiefly to blame for whipping up tension on the globe, that is irresponsibly playing with the destinies of millions of people. It has ignored the numerous Soviet warnings against this. As many observers justly note, it is precisely Washington that deliberately undermines the spirit of Geneva.

U.S. Flouts 'Moral Norms'

LD162359 Moscow TASS in English 2159 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- TASS Political News Analyst Askold Biryukov writes:

When U.S. Defence Secretary Casper Weinberger was asked by reporters about the results of "carefully planned air strikes against five terrorist-related targets in Libya" (the wording of the U.S. Administration), he said: We have no idea that we killed anybody. He said that nothing is known about the damage to civilian facilities, that there are reports that an insignificant damage was caused, that someone got burns, that windows were shattered.

The U.S. defence secretary is lying, just as other U.S. officials are. During the broadcast of the ABC television company that interviewed Weinberger, it was stated directly that large damage had been inflicted on one of residential areas in Tripoli. There is more information about the consequences of that piratic action by the USA. More than 100 houses were destroyed. The buildings of the French Embassy and a number of other embassies were damaged by the bombing. Many peaceful people, including children, were killed or wounded.

A photograph shows the horrible consequences of the "carefully planned air strikes" of U.S. pirates at the Libyan capital. Bodies of children in blood-soaked nighties and pajamas innocent victims of the "self-defence" act, taken by Washington aware of its power, against the small freedom-loving people of the Libyan Jamahiriyah, victims of another unprovoked aggression by the United States against a sovereign country. Director of the Central Hospital in Tripoli, Mohammed Mouafa, accompanying reporters inspecting victims of the bombing called their attention to horribly maimed bodies.

The 30-year-old killers who piloted F-111 strategic fighter bombers to targets in Tripoli, Captains Fernando Ribes-Dominicci and Paul Lorence, should have seen the handiwork. Among the victims is the killed 15-month old adopted daughter of the leader of the Libyan revolution Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, his sons Hamis, aged three and Seifoul-Arab, aged four, who were gravely wounded. A reportage from the hospital transmitted by the Japanese N.H.K. television company showed one of the women staying there. With tears in her eyes she was saying: "We have never harmed anyone why is Reagan killing our children?"

Soviet people whose families were scorched by the past war understand the grief of Libyan mothers and not their grief only. The grief of Vietnamese mothers whose children were destroyed by "Carpet bombings", by pellet bombs, napalm and chemical weapons does not abate. We remember the recent events in Lebanon where hundreds of children were burned by the fire of U.S. phosphorous bombs, burst to pieces by direct hits of heavy shells fired from the U.S. battleship "New Jersey". We remember Afghan children killed or injured by explosions of body-traps camouflaged as toys, the horrible invention of arms manufacturers for the U.S. CIA. We remember numerous schoolgirls from the Kabul lycee, victims of the use of another barbarous weapon invented by the same department -- potent toxic agents. We remember children killed in the United States' undeclared wars against Nicaragua, Angola, Kampuchea.

What has been done against Libya is presented in Washington as another victory by the USA. But it is clear that this is not a victory but another crime of the U.S. Administration. It is seen now that the blood of innocent people and those who are mankind's future -- children, is split through the fault of the United States leaders.

They in Washington keep hammering away that they are "protecting morality and democracy". But everybody sees that the USA is flouting not only fundamental moral norms but also human rights, including the most important of them, the right to live. They in Washington assert that the United States is "combatting terrorism". But everyone sees that the USA is killing children. And this is not only the crime of the United States leaders but also a disgrace for the Americans.

Policy 'Unacceptable, Monstrous'

LD162312 Moscow TASS in English 2249 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- TASS commentator Valentin Vasilets writes:

A BBC correspondent reports from Tripoli that he had seen bodies of eleven people killed in an American raid on Libya, among them two children. It would be naive to suggest that somebody at the White House or the Pentagon would think just for a moment of the two children killed in the raid. Meanwhile, if this is not terrorism in its most naked, undisguised form, then how one could qualify the killing of children? Nobody should be under delusion to that score: When Defence Secretary Weinberger, his deputy Taft and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Crowe were detailing the operation, they couldn't but "put" into their plan deaths of innocent people, they planned a bloody crime.

The bandit raid on Libya reaffirmed once again that under the pretext of struggle against terrorism, the United States resorts to undisguised terror institutionalizing it. That policy is as unacceptable and monstrous as it would be unacceptable and monstrous for police to open fire at random on a crowd in the hope to hit the criminal, being not even sure that he is amid that crowd.

Washington has committed a crime both from the viewpoint of simple human notions of justice and morale and from the viewpoint of international law. The United States wants to make other states to conduct a course suitable to Washington. Any country, which is not as strong as the United States, might fall victim to such lawlessness. Seemingly in Washington they recognise in real earnest only the language of force. This is what they bring their diplomacy to in the relations with their real of imaginary enemies.

On the very day when rescue teams in Tripoli extracted dead bodies from debris, U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz made public his speech at Kansas University. He briefly expressed the foreign policy philosophy of the United States Administration, saying that negotiations are euphemism for capitulation if force is not felt at the table of negotiations. In other words, a small country needn't even go to the table of negotiations, but should capitulate right away. Washington itself least of all things of negotiations if it hopes to further its aims by force.

Guided by the same bandit logic, the United States sends weapons to its flunkeys terrorists in Angola, counter-revolutionary units in Afghanistan, connives at surviving Pol Pot terroristic regime men. As different from an ordinary terrorist with a submachine gun or a grenade, the United States uses for terrorist activity a far wider choice -- up to aircraft carriers and bombers. But this does not change the essence. Therefore one could hardly consider as exaggeration the conclusion that Washington now is the main source of international terrorism. Such terrorism is a threat not to individual citizens, but to the whole world, the whole system of international relations. Seemingly in Washington they do not realize that we live in a nuclear age, when the states, above all great ones, should display a special feeling of responsibility and to most attentively weigh the consequences of their actions in the international scene.

U.S. Steps Up Covert Acts in Libya

LD170843 Moscow TASS in English 0813 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Acts of Subversion Against Libya" -- TASS item identifier]

[Text] New York April 17 TASS -- The barbarous bombing of Libya by the U.S. Air Force is an aspect of the strategy of the Reagan administration aimed at subverting and overthrowing by all means the revolutionary government of Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, whose anti-imperialist course infuriates Washington.

The Newhouse news service reports, quoting "informed sources," that under the cover of air strikes at Libya on Monday [as received], the U.S. secret services went ahead with a series of "covert operations" to overthrow the Al-Qadhdhafi regime. The bomb raid is not the only action to have taken place on Monday, the news service quotes unidentified officials as saying. A night air strike is a marvellous cover for many other things, according to them. In the past weeks, the news service reports, the USA has stepped up covert operations to destabilise the Al-Qadhdhafi regime, including a campaign of misinformation and attempts to provoke rioting and a coup d'etat in the country.

Mass Organizations Condemn Strike

LD161715 Moscow TASS in English 1316 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow, April 16 TASS -- The Union of Soviet Societies for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Foreign Countries, the Soviet Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations With Arab Countries and the USSR-Libya Friendship Society have issued a statement denouncing the U.S. provocation against Libya as an unprecedented act of state-backed terrorism.

Acting on personal orders from President Ronald Reagan, they said, U.S. aircraft have carried out a series of carefully planned attacks on Libyan cities. The barbarous bombings have led to numerous civilian casualties, including deaths among women and children.

The bandit action was preceded by a ferocious campaign of blackmail and threats against Libya, explained by Washington's extreme animosity towards Libya's anti-imperialist, independent foreign policy and the process of progressive change in that country.

Defying world demands, the United States continues escalating aggression against the Libyan people and using brutal force as the sole method of conducting international policy.

Aggression against Libya is fraught with a direct threat to peace and security in the region, the statement said. The latest U.S. bandit-style attack on Libya has caused anger among Soviet people. "We strongly demand an end to U.S. aggression against Libya and to the escalation of tension in the Mediterranean. We express solidarity with the struggle by the Libyan people upholding their independence," the statement said.

AUCCTU Condemns 'Barbarous' Raid

LD161810 Moscow TASS in English 1437 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- Profound indignation of the Soviet working people was evoked by the United States piratic armed aggression against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, says a statement issued by the Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions. Ignoring the peoples' wish to live in peace, their striving for the easing of international tension, the U.S. Administration issued an order to bomb Tripoli and Banghazi. That barbarous raid in which innocent peaceful people were killed confirmed again the dangerous militaristic nature of the policy of the U.S. ruling circles that are imposing on the world the imperial policy of "neoglobalism" and power pressure.

The aggression against Libya shows that U.S. imperialism does not stop at using any means against states whose independent policy is not to its liking. The course of state terrorism conducted by the USA means cynical defiance to peace-loving humanity and represents a serious threat to the cause of peace and security of peoples.

The Central Council of Soviet Trade Unions on behalf of 137 million Soviet working people condemns resolutely the glaring act of the United States aggression against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, demands an end to the heightening of tension in the Mediterranean and urges the international working class, the world trade union movement to come out against the criminal actions of U.S. militarists.

Solidarity Committee Condemns Act

LD161722 Moscow TASS in English 1002 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 16 TASS -- On behalf of the Soviet public the Soviet Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee voiced a strong protest against the U.S. policy of state terrorism with respect to sovereign Libya, and demanded that military provocations against that country be immediately stopped.

The Soviet public calls upon all peaceful and progressive forces in Asia and Africa, all those who cherish the ideals of freedom and independence to raise their voice in protest against acts of arbitrariness and lawlessness perpetrated by the U.S. military against the Libyan Jamahiriyah, said the committee's statement issued today.

There is no and can be no justification for the aggressive actions and banditry of the U.S. military. For almost six months now the Libyan Jamahiriyah and its leadership have been a target of a rabid, chauvinistic campaign.

Washington's objective is obvious -- it is to intimidate the freedom loving Libyan people, to destroy the progressive regime of that country and subordinate it to the American diktat, the statement said.

The policy of state terrorism pursued by the United States today threatens peace and security not only of Libya and the Arab countries neighboring on it, but also generates an explosive situation in the entire region of the Mediterranean and southern Europe, the statement emphasized.

Each day, each passing hour are bringing in fresh convincing proof that Washington's policy is condemned by diverse political forces and social groups, irrespective of their persuasions, of their racial and religious affiliation.

United Nations member-countries, including the developing nations of Asia, Africa and Latin America, censured the bandit actions of the U.S. military.

Even U.S. allies failed to support it and urged the United States in no uncertain terms to refrain from military action fraught with a threat to world peace.

Few people have any doubt today, the statement said, that there is a direct connection between the policy and practical actions of the United States with respect to Libya, Nicaragua, Angola and Afghanistan, as well as other sovereign nations pursuing independent anti-imperialist policies.

Komsomol Denounces Attack

LD170504 Moscow TASS in English 0456 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- Soviet youth angrily denounces the U.S. aggression against the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, which caused heavy damage to the country and civilian casualties, says a statement by the Central Committee of the Young Communist League and the Committee of Youth Organisations of the U.S.S.R.

The bandit U.S. attack on Libya was meticulously planned and prepared with undisguised cynicism. It became a culmination of the frenzied campaign of blackmail, threats and military provocations against that sovereign Arab country pursuing the anti-imperialist policy on the international scene.

Washington has dramatically intensified lately, within the framework of its "neo-globalist" doctrine, the encroachments on people's sacred right to determine independently their social system and steer an independent course in international affairs. Today's "globalism" of Washington in the area of the Mediterranean and its open policy of state terrorism rest on the ramified network of NATO, first and foremost American, military bases -- the strongholds of militarism and violence.

In flouting most grossly the U.N. Charter and the norms of international law, the United States pursues the policy of aggression, provoking of regional conflicts and brinkmanship, which is at variance with the interests of peace and international security.

SHULTZ CALL FOR CONTRA SUPPORT CRITICIZED

PM170759 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Apr 86 First Edition p 5

[Text] Washington, 15 Apr -- The Reagan administration is continuing its tough pressure on Congress to make it appropriate an additional $100 million for military aid to the gangs of Nicaraguan "contras," through whom the United States is trying to overthrow the Nicaraguan Government.

Addressing members of the Associated General Contractors of America, President Reagan again called for granting aid to the Somozist cutthroats, whom he describes as nothing less than "fighters for freedom and democracy."

U.S. Secretary of State Shultz also spoke in support of the "contra" gangs. In a speech at Kansas University he cynically claimed that support for the "contras" is "America's moral duty." After his speech Shultz agreed to answer questions. Discomfiture ensued. Someone in the audience asked him this question: Nicaragua seeks democracy. Its people overthrew the dictator Somoza. How can aid to the "contras" be compatible with your declared principles of freedom and democracy? Moreover, both you and President Reagan condemn terrorism. Yet in supporting the "contras" the United States has unleashed terror against the peaceful population of Nicaragua. As a result, thousands of peaceful citizens have died. How can you justify such hypocrisy?

In reply the secretary of state stated: "Nicaragua is a cancer and must be destroyed."

During Shultz' lecture thousands of balloons carrying the slogan "No aid to the contras!" were released into the air above the university building. Hundreds of people had come to the educational establishment to express their indignation over the escalation of U.S. interference in Nicaragua's affairs and the attempts to overthrow the country's legitimate government.

There was also a protest demonstration against aid to the "contras" outside the U.S. Congress building. "Stop American interference in Central America!" "United States -- out of Nicaragua!" -- placards bearing these slogans were carried by many participants in the demonstration on the Capitol steps. Police arrested more than 50 people.

More than 130 participants in a demonstration against American policy in Central America were arrested by the New York police. More than 500 people carrying placards saying "Contras kill children," "The International Court has condemned U.S. actions," and "No aid to the contras!" began to picket outside the federal courthouse building and other state institutions.

In the last 3 days alone there have been protest demonstrations in 250 U.S. citites.

PRAVDA REPORTS OPENING OF REAGAN-NAKASONE TALKS

PM161441 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Apr 86 First Edition p 4

[TASS report under general headline: "Washington Steps up Pressure on Tokyo"]

[Text] Washington, 14 Apr -- The first round of talks between Ronald Reagan and Japa ese Prime Minister Y. Nakasone, who is here on a working visit, was held at the President's country retreat Sunday.

According to a high-ranking State Department spokesman, the talks "paid considerable attention to questions of East-West relations and questions of arms control and U.S.-Japanese cooperation in the defense sphere." The spokesman stressed that the Japanese Prime Minister "supported the stance adopted by President Reagan" on these questions.

However, on the question of the so-called "Strategic Defense Initiative" the talks clearly did not bring the results counted on by Washington. Despite the pressure put on him, the Japanese Prime Minister declined to make any official commitment regarding Japanese participation in the implementation of SDI. The State Department spokesman acknowledged that Nakasone stated only that Japan "will continue to study the question carefully."

Judging by the administration spokesman's statements, the first round of t0lks was marked by keen debate on the question of U.S.-Japanese trade and economic relations. The American side peremptorily demanded that Tokyo take the speediest measures to fully open up Japanese markets to American goods. It is clear from the spokesman's statements that this essentially involved the complete reorientation of the Japanese economy from the export to the import of manufactured goods so that the United States can somewhat improve its truly catastrophic position in the foreign trade sphere, which shows a record deficit.

Biryukov Views Talks

LD162334 Moscow TASS in English 2231 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 15 TASS -- Follows commentary by TASS Political News Analyst Askold Biryukov:

Describing the atmosphere, in which the latest visit of Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone to the USA was held, the Japanese KYODO TSUSHIN agency pointed out that both countries had tried to create a friendly atmosphere for that event. Yet such an atmosphere can exist only on the surface of it.

It has turned out that the American side was disappointed by the "gifts", which were brought to Washington by the Japanese prime minister. No, the point at issue is not the brand new miniature colour TV set presented to Reagan, who was pleased by that toy. They in Washington were disappointed by the package of "new radical measures" brought by the Japanese premier thre. According to Tokyo's claims, the measures are designed to contribute to a reduction of the deficit of the United States in its trade with Japan, which has reached 50 billion dollars.

They in Washington were disappointed because, as was the case more than once in the past, this package of measures is not concrete. Despite the optimism of the final statement, the Japanese side can hardly be satisfied with the results of the visit either. The Japanese prime minister wished to ensure in Camp David full support from the U.S. President for the meeting of the leaders of the seven major capitalist powers scheduled to be held in May. Yet, the KYODO TSUSHIN points out, Reagan's reaction to his efforts was a "cool" one, in the obvious attempt at wresting more concessions from the Japanese side.

As the newspaper ASAHI SHIMBUN said, Nakasone could have agreed to pay that visit in order to score new points for himself by his showy diplomatic action for achieving internal political aims, in particular, in holding simultaneous elections to both chambers of the parliament (with the aim of prolonging his stay in power). Yet, the newspaper said, it is easy to see that in return he has put an enormous burden on Japan's shoulders.

Speaking of the burden to be shouldered by Japan as a result of that visit, the point at issue will, apparently, be, in the first place, a further transformation of Japan's stand on participation in the SDI. The Japanese premier promised the U.S. President that this question would be carefully discussed by the government, which is unanimously regarded as a manifestation of a positive approach of the government to participation in the "star wars" programme. It can be said, Tezima, a correspondent of the NKH television company in Washington, said, commenting on that statement, that Nakasone had made if not a whole step in that direction, than at least half a step ahead.

None other than Japan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs spelled out the government's stand already last week and declared for the country's participation in "research work" on SDI. The same is advocated by Tokyo's military department. To all appearances, they in Tokyo light-mindedly neglect all the possible adverse consequences of Japan's joining in the programme, which as Carl Sagan, a prominent American scientist, said: Will draw mankind into an abyss, jeopardise outer space and increase the threat of nuclear war.

WEINBERGER CALLS FOR MILITARY BUILDUP AMONG ALLIES

LD171026 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 0259 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Washington, 17 Apr (TASS) -- TASS correspondent V. Legantsov report: U.S. Defense Secretary C. Weinberger delivered a report at the Boston Council for International Affairs on the results of his recent trip to Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, Thailand, and Australia. Virtually the whole of his speech boiled down to intimidating the American people with the mythical "Soviet threat" and calling for a continued buildup of the military might of the United States and its allies.

Weinberger was full of praise for the wide-scale program of strengthening Japan's military potential, which is being conducted by that country's government on instructions from Washington. He noted, among other thins, that Japan's implementation of its 5-year program to modernize its armed forces will enable it to have at the disposal of its navy by the beginning of 1990 more destroyers and antisubmarine aircraft than there are currently in the US 7th Fleet operating in the Pacific.

The Pentagon chief did not conceal his satisfaction with the policy of the South Korean dictator, Chun Doo Hwan, which by force of arms is suppressing the movement for the restoration of democracy. Weinberger reaffirmed the administration's intention to maintain the U.S. military presence in South Korea. At the same time he went so far as to claim that the presence on the Korean peninsula of a powerful group of American troops somehow testified to America's "adherence to the cause of peace."

Regarding his brief visit to the Philippines, on whose territory are deployed two of the largest U.S. military bases abroad, Weinberger made perfectly clear the U.S. intention to use the lever of assistance to the Philippines Government in order to maintain its military presence in the country.

Speaking about his trip to Thailand, Weinberger once again repeated the administration's worn-out thesis about the existence of a "communist threat" to that country. It is precisely under this pretext that ther U.S. is expanding its military aid to Thailand, in the hope of drawing the country ever deeper into its own militaristic plans.

It is clear from his speech that the defense secretary saw the existence of the same sort of "threat" to Australia, with whom Washington is seeking a considerable strengthening of military ties, and with particular persistence in the light of a perceptible split in the ANZUS bloc. Weinberger gave a very clear hint that Washington expects from its allies extra efforts in enhancing the combat readiness of their armed forces. He said that the United States considers the "contribution of the nonnuclear countries" to the defense of the West to be extremely important.

The U.S. defense secretary's speech clearly demonstrated that the Reagan administration intends to continue to push ahead with its militarist preparations in the Asian-Pacific region, a policy which is fraught with dangerous consequences for the peoples of the states situated there.

REPORTAGE ON GORBACHEV VISIT TO GDR

Lays Wreath in Berlin

LD180836 Moscow TASS in English 0821 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Berlin April 18 TASS - The delegates to the 11th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, the delegations of the communist and workers' parties, national liberation movements attending the congress have paid tribute of profound respect to the memory of the Soviet soldiers, who saved humanity from Hitler fascism. The delegates and the guests laid wreaths today to the monument of the Soviet soldier-liberator in Berlin's Treptow Park.

A wreath was laid on behalf of the CPSU delegation by Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central committee.

Taking part in the official ceremony were Erich Honecker, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany, chairman of the GDR Council of State, and other Party leaders and statesmen of the republic.

The GDR leaders and foreign guests observed a minute of silence in tribute to the memory of the Soviet soldiers, who fell in battles against the fascist plague.

Addresses SED Congress

LD181102 Moscow TASS in English 1039 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Berlin April 18 TASS -- Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, made the following address to the 11th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany (SED) here today:

Esteemed Comrade Chairman,

Dear comrades, friends,

On behalf of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union I cordially greet the 11th Congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

The attention of the numerous friends of the GDR and broad international public circles is these days riveted to Berlin. The Soviet people are showing keen interest in your congress, in how the theory of scientific socialism is being translated into practice in the heart of Europe, in the homeland of the founders of our teaching -- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels.

From this rostrum I would like to convey wholehearted greetings from the Soviet people to the fraternal people of the German Democratic Republic.

It is with close attention that we have listened to the SED Central Committee's progress report delivered by Comrade Erich Honecker and familiarized ourselves with directives on the plan for the GDR's national economic development in 1986 through 1990. They are convincing evidence that the cause of socialism on German soil is making confident headway.

Your plans are challenging but realistic because they are based on the tangible results achieved both throughout the history of this republic and over recent years. Intensive methods have made it possible to ensure a steady pace of national economic advancement. Your experience of merging science with production, making rational use

of material and manpower resources, and applying the achievements of scientific and technological progress widely deserves praise.

Your party can take pride in what has been done and is being done in the GDR for the full-blooded life of urban and rural workers, public amenities, environmental protection, and the promotion of social activity by citizens. The considerate hand of an efficient master, and the people in a socialist state do feel they are the master, shows everywhere in the GDR.

These days that the SED is celebrating its 40th anniversary it is especially appropriate to stress its outstanding role in forging the GDR as it is today. Faithful to the traditions of Karl Liebknecht, Rosa Luxemburg and Ernest Thaelmann and led by such remarkable figures of the working-class movement as Wilhelm Pieck, Otto Grotewohl and Walter Ulbricht, the party has boldly advanced along the trail blazed by the Great October Revolution. It has gone a long way from post-war devastation to a modern dynamic economy, from crushed Nazism to a socialist state of workers and peasants, from spiritual bankruptcy to a triumph of the most humane ideology and culture -- all this thanks to the party having invariably been guided by the ideas of Marxism-Leninism and proletarian internationalism.

Let me, dear friends, congratulate from the bottom of my heart the delegates to the congress and all members of your party on the signal anniversary and wish you further success in building a developed socialist society.

You know well that throughout the post-war years our party and people have been near you, always ready to help the young state of working people. We have been loyal friends and allies of the SED and of the German Democratic Republic and will continue to be such for ever.

Comrades, the socialist world is living through a special, one might say, crucial period. History has confronted us squarely with the need to make fuller use of the advantages of a new social system in order to accelerate scientific, technological, economic and social progress and enrich the socialist way of life with new facets. The attractive power of socialism and the enhancement of its international positions will depend on this decisively. The task of fending off the nuclear threat, checking the aggressive ambitions of imperialism, and preserving and strengthening peace is more urgent than ever before.

The decisions of our party congresses are together providing socialism's response to the challenge of the times. Understandably enough, in its concrete manifestations this response will be multifarious, reflecting the fraternal countries' specific features of development. But it will be one and the same in terms of principle because we have common goals and the same, communist, world outlook.

The decisions of the 27th Congress of the CPSU have evoked broad positive response in the fraternal parties and countries, including the GDR. We are very grateful to you for it. This reaction from friends, associates in a common cause, is for us both a confirmation that the chosen path is right and an inspiring stimulus.

It is, of course, up to history to give an exhaustive evaluation of this or that event. But it is clear even now that the Congress has not been an ordinary event for our country. It has completed the work of charting a further political course for the CPSU, work started by the April plenary meeting of the CPSU Central Committee, and armed the party and the people with a clear idea of what should be done and how at this turning point in history.

The congress has passed in an atmosphere of high exactingness. There has been frank talking from its rostrum both about our problems and about our shortcomings, but mostly about the ways of fundamentally improving work.

By virtue of a number of objective and subjective reasons, our movement forward at the previous stage began to slow down and negative trends showed. Speaking about this, we are far from downplaying our own achievements. Seen in broad historical perspective, our country's successes in economic, social and cultural fields are a generally recognized fact. The point being made is different. It is that, by relying on what has already been achieved, we can and should move forward much faster, get rid of our weaknesses and bottlenecks, and overcome whatever stagnation there is.

We are sometimes asked: Haven't we gone too far in our criticisms, aren't we thus giving food for anti-communist propaganda? We are positive that we haven't gone too far in this. Both Karl Marx and Vladimir Lenin taught that an indispensable condition for a revolutionary party's success is its critical attitude to its performance. We have sought to follow this behest and won the unreserved backing of the communists and all people.

A realistic assessment of what has been achieved has provided the point of departure for advancing a constructive program. Its pivot is a policy of speeding up the country's social and economic development, which has been grounded in every way in the decisions of the congress and in the new edition of the Party program.

I would like to stress that the idea of acceleration is not a whim. It proceeds from a sober evaluation of the possibilities of socialism. We believe that we can and should increase the efficiency of the socialist system and we shall achieve this aim by all means.

Having started with strengthening labor and production discipline, the party has embarked on drafting and effecting far-reaching reforms to lend Soviet society a new, more mature quality.

The decisions of the congress provide for a new technical reconstruction of the national economy, a serious reshaping of structural and investment policies, and a shift of emphasis on the qualitative factors of economic growth. We have drawn up programs for overhauling the entire mechanical engineering sector and reaching advanced positions in such fields as computer facilities, production automation and robotization, biotechnology, and new structural materials.

We have set the task to the scientists, designers and inventors in so many words: Stop looking at average levels as the guidepost, abandon the positions of imitation, and direct your efforts at developing and producing fundamentally new products that will be the best in the world.

Wide use will be made of Soviet-developed rotary lines and rotary line-conveyer belt combinations helping raise labor productivity up to ten times. It is envisages by the end of this five-year plan period to put into operation some 2,000 robotized integrated manufacturing systems, the same number of flexible automated systems, and tens of thousands of up-to-date manufacturing centers and other advanced machines. Plans for the next five years provide for outfitting 3,000 research and development organizations with computer-aided design systems, which will save the national economy a total of more than five billion roubles. We expect much from the introduction of technology for producing materials by self-spreading high-temperature synthesis, which does not have analogues in world practice, as well as such priority technologies as powder metallurgy, membrane technology, lasers and light-guide technology.

In order to expedite their adoption major inter-sectoral science-and-technology complexes have a been set as a basically new form of integrating science with production.

The decisive issue of acccelerating social and economic development is that of upgrading administration. We have been looking for effective forms and methods of economic management for several years and staged experiments in individual regions and industries. Now all this has formed an integral concept.

What is it all about? Basically, the idea is to raise the authority of the center in solving the key issues of economic and social development and delegate the other issues for resolution at local level. It is to switch the factories, collective farms and state farms to a real pay-your-own-way basis, encouraging them in this way to show greater independence, responsibility and socialist enterprise. It is to involve the broadest masses of people, every work collective and every person, in the process of accelerating our development.

People of the elder generations remember our spisited slogans of the '30s: "Equipment is the all-decisive factor" and "Personnel are the all-decisive factor". They helped a better understanding of the tasks of building socialism in those years and mobilized people to accomplish them. Now all our experience prompts a pithier formula, which is a kind of blend of both these approaches. It is: "The creative endeavour of the masses is the decisive power for acceleration".

There is also another important area of our work. The political system of socialism offers the working people broad possibilities to take part in administering public affairs. It should be admitted, however, that it is not always that these possibilities are used to the full. The reason why they are the manifestations of formalism, a propensity to ostentation, red tape, and smug complacency. The party has adopted a course of doing decisively away with them, further upgrading Soviet democracy, and promoting the people's socialist self-government.

We link all these processes with a serious re-organization of the party's own work. Vigorous quest, innovation, the overcoming of the infallibility complex, close touch with the masses, broad publicity, and the unity of word and deed - these are the demands made today on the style of work of the Party organizations and on every communist, irrespective of his post.

In short, comrades, the 27th congress has really marked a turning point in the activities of our party and in the life of the country. It has given rise to great political enthusiasm. We are now working to make certain that the energy of our plans will be translated into the energy of practical action. We are convinced of the rightness of the chosen path and shall not leave it.

It is all this, the things uppermost on the minds of the party and the people, that we wanted to tell you, our close friends.

Comrades,

The future of the Soviet Union is inconceivable without close interaction with the GDR and with the other fraternal countries. This is not only because the complex tasks set by the times cannot be performed without it.

I think we will feel that the socialist countries are entering a period where cooperation among them should be raised to a still higher level, not just by a point or two but as mathematicians say, by a whole order.

In the four postwar decades the fraternal countries, blazing new trails, have carried out deep-going socio-economic changes. Advanced industries have been developed, personnel raised, and socialist state structures established and consolidated, and the communist and workers' parties have grown richer with the experience of governing society and become mature. The international positions of the socialist countries have grown stronger.

All this is broadening opportunities for international cooperation between socialist countries and giving rise to the need to work out new approaches to the development of their relationships. As Friedrich Engels farsightedly noted, "an international union is possible only between nations whose existence, autonomy and independence in internal affairs are integrated... into the very concept of internationalism."

Economic relations seem to be calling for special attention. A good and sound foundation has been laid for these relations in previous years. The Council for Mutual Economic Assistance has accumulated a good deal of experience in integration. But the question today should be formulated as follows: Do the level and forms of cooperation match the new tasks facing all of us at the current stage? Are all the oppportunities for cooperation between the fraternal countries used to accelerate our development and to ensure our economic invulnerability to the capitalist market? I think you will agree that these opportunities are not used in full and it is in our common interest to redress this situation.

The paramount task of the current stage of economic cooperation has already been defined by the leadership of the fraternal parties and states. It is scientific and technological progress and co-production, primarily in engineering. The comprehensive program for the scientific and technological progress of the CMEA member countries through the year 2000 is a sound document, setting targets which are up to the highest world standards, but immense efforts will be needed to achieve them.

The main thing is broadly to develop direct contacts between research organizations, plants and amalgamations, to establish joint firms and to resolve a number of legal and financial problems. What all this amounts to actually is a new economic mechanism of our cooperation. We will need here to launch bold experiments, to tear down bureaucratic and departmental barriers and to do away with outdated stereotypes of thinking and with the underestimation of the importance and efficiency of cooperation by some economic managers. Naturally, this cooperation should necessarily be mutually beneficial and take account of the interests of all participants.

The work of the CMEA needs to be drastically improved as well. It would be good to relieve that organization of day-to-day managerial functions that are not its task and to concentrate its attention on major, strategic problems of economic integration and state-to-state regulation of this process.

Naturally, comrades, all these are not simple problems. But they can and must be resolved because this meets the vital interests of each fraternal country and of all of us put together. Political will is needed here and all of us have such will, as the latest meetings and conversations of the leaders of the socialist community countries have shown.

I will add that there is a possibility for the further expansion of our ties not only in the economy but also in every other area of social activity. What I mean is the development of mutual exchanges of information and experience in every way as well as of contacts at every level along party, state and public lines. It is important to meet the need of the fraternal peoples to gain more thorough and substantive knowledge of each other's affairs, considerably to expand cooperation in culture, and to broden direct human communication. We are heart and soul for this, as the saying goes.

Comrades,

Problems of war and peace feature prominently at your congress, and with good reason. The international situation remains tense and acute. And we communists consider it our paramount duty to do everything possible to stop the world from sliding toward nuclear catastrophe.

It is exactly the striving for these aims that had dictated also our trip to Geneva, the moratorium on nuclear explosions and the concrete programme of fully liquidating nuclear arms which was set forth in January. These major initiatives accorded with the interests of all nations and were energetically supported by the allied socialist countries, by many countries of the world. People began to hope for a change in the political atmosphere for the better.

But alas, today this hope is being subjected to serious trials. The military-industrial complex that rules in the United States is clearly not suited by a turn towards a normalisation of the international situation. The arms merchants shudder at the mere thought that the Soviet Union and the United States might reach agreement on disarmament. Contrary to the pressing interests and aspirations of all peoples, including its own people, Washington has taken to the road of actually undermining the Geneva accords, the road of actions that only further complicate the already tense situation in the world arena.

I refer first of all to the two sinister nuclear explosions in Nevada which destroyed a unique chance to give the process of disarmament a real start. I also refer to the impudent action taken by the United States against Libya that is fraught with the danger of a serious worsening of the situation in the world.

Everything shows that Washington has decided in its usual manner to teach the Arab countries a lesson, to force them to give up their struggle for a just settlement of the conflict in the Middle East. But this is also evidence of the bankruptcy of the American policy in the region - a policy of maneouvres and separate deals in favour of Israel, a policy profoundly hostile to the interests of the Arab peoples.

No reference to terrorism give the American Administration the right to play the role of an "international judge" and self-appointed chastiser, to replace the principles of international intercourse with jungle law. The more so that the matter is not in acts of terrorism that are firmly condemned by the entire international community.

It is for many years now that U.S. imperialists have been keeping up pressure on Libya and other Arab countries upholding their sovereign rights and defending the just cause of the Arab people of Palestine.

The USSR and other socialist countries have been demonstrating their solidarity with Libya in words and in deeds. They have warned about grave responsibility the United States is shouldering by engaging in armed aggression against an independent country which is a U.N. member.

Set against a broad international context, the crime against Libya as well as the stubborn continuation of nuclear testing and the escalation of threats against Nicaragua cannot be viewed as isolated developments. They all are manifestations of the general policy of Washington whose militarist, aggressive nature has revealed itself most visually these days.

I would like to stress that in Washington and in the European capitals they should realize that such actions are doing direct harm also to dialogue between the USSR and the United States and between East and West in general. There should be no pretending that the U.S. Administration is not aware that Soviet-U.S. relations cannot develop independently of how the United States is behaving on the international scene and what kind of situation is taking shape as a result.

It should be clear to every sensible person now who is really working for peace and who is pushing nations into the nuclear precipice. One can imagine what would be left of the human race and its civilization were the Soviet Union behaving in the world like the United States.

Such short-sighted, egoistic and adventurist policy is, however, in principle alien to socialism.

At this moment of responsibility no-one may dodge discharging one's duty to the present and succeeding generations. The destiny of peace must not be left at the mercy of U.S. militarists.

As far as the Soviet Union and the other countries of the socialist community are concerned, they have acted and will continue to act being fully aware of their responsibility.

Today we declare with utter certainty: Our proposals for eliminating nuclear weapons and bridling the arms race hold good. If the governments of Western countries are really concerned about the fate of peace, it is high time they began matching their words with deeds.

This is yet to happen. Let us take Europe. We can point out that the Soviet Union made a big concession by suggesting that the Soviet and American medium-range nuclear missiles be removed from the whole territory of Europe on the condition that the other NATO countries, Britain and France, would not build up their missile potentials. But now the very same governments that only recently regarded the Soviet SS-20 missiles as the main threat to Western Europe declare that this is not enough, that the road to the further buildup of missiles and nuclear warheads by Britain and France should not be blocked.

Where is logic here, may I ask, where is the principle of equality and equal security? There is no trace of them.

There is no logic in the policy of West Germany as well. Its government keeps talking about its commitment to peace and its desire to develop cooperation with socialist countries and pledging that war will never be launched from the territory of the country. But what do we have in reality? It is in West German territory that Pershings and cruise missiles targeted eastwards are lurking. No other West European government, it seems, has given such a wholehearted support to the American militarist SDI program. Moreover, Bonn has complemented it with a European "star wars" plan. All this is all the more alarming since the ruling class of West Germany continues to claim that there is an "open German question," has not given up revanchist plans.

The Soviet Union attaches much importance to the development of relations with West Germany as a major European state. What is more, we are prepared to develop these relations on an equal basis and to mutual benefit. But this calls first and foremost for Bonn's policy to meet in practice the interests of peace and security. We want to stress in the context that we unconditionally support the legitimate demand of the GDR to West Germany that relations between them be fully brought into accordance with the commonly recognized norms of international law.

Discussing the situation in Europe, we see another major problem, namely, the confrontation in the continent of powerful forces armed with conventional weapons.

Two groupings of troops, each three million strong and possessing the most advanced tanks, missiles and planes, let alone small arms of all types, face each other in Europe. Moreover, what is called conventional weapons are constantly being improved and made more sophisticated and powerful, their effects becoming more and more like those of weapons of mass destruction.

There is one more aspect to this problem. We are told that Western Europe cannot give up nuclear weapons, including American ones, because in this case it would allegedly feel less secure in the face of the conventional armed forces and armaments of the Warsaw Treaty Organization. And the rightist press is trying to back this false argument and to scare people with fantastic scenarios of the invasion of the West by a horde of Soviet tanks.

What do we think necessary to say in this context?

To begin with, the elimination of nuclear weapons in Europe would create a new situation in Europe not only for the West but also for ourselves. We should not forget that invasions of our territory in the pre-nuclear age were mounted from the West, and more than once.

One more thing. I would like to appeal to all the West Europeans from here, from the capital of the socialist GDR: Do not believe allegations about the aggressiveness of the Soviet Union. Our country will never and under no circumstances begin armed operations against Western Europe unless we or our allies become targets of a NATO attack! I repeat, never!

We would like to back this position with a new initiative, now applying to the conventional armaments and armed forces. The USSR suggests that agreement be reached on substantial reductions in all the components of the land forces and tactical air forces of the European states and the relevant forces of the USA and Canada deployed in Europe. The formations and units to be reduced should be disbanded and their weaponry either destroyed or stored in national territories. Geographically, reductions, obviously, should cover the entire European territory from the Atlantic to the Urals. Operational-tactical nuclear weapons could be reduced simultaneously with conventional weapons.

The question of dependable verification at every stage of this progress offers itself. Both national technical means and international forms of verification, including, if need be, on-site inspection, are possible.

In short, this is a subject for serious negotiations. We believe that the formulation of the question in a broader context will make it possible to cut the knot which has been growing tighter at the Vienna talks over so many years now.

We attach no less importance to deliverance from chemical weapons. Seeking to expedite the conclusion of a relevant international convention, the Soviet Union will table at the disarmament conference within the next few days a number of new proposals making it possible to remove the differences which have so far remained.

We consider all the constructive initiatives, such as the idea to establish a chemical weapon-free zone in Europe, produced jointly by the SED and the Social Democratic Party of Germany, valuable and are prepared to examine them.

There are no traps in our policy. We stretch out a hand, not a fist to the West. I want to stress that we are looking for ways to mutual understanding and to the limitation of the arms race not out of weakness. We need peace but everyone else needs it. Our policy is prompted by our concern about the survival of mankind, perhaps, the only civilization in the starry expanses of our galaxy.

Comrades,

The strength of the communists lies in their ideological conviction and readiness to fight dedicatedly for the ideals of peace and justice and for happiness for the working people. Your congress, like the congresses of the other ruling communist parties, reaffirms our common resolve tirelessly to perfect socialist society and to set a forceful example to enhance the appeal of the new social system.

We wish you, dear comrades, the communists and all the other working people of the GDR, every success in the accomplishment of the tasks which will be set by the 11th congress of the Socialist Unity Party of Germany.

May unbreakable fraternal friendship between the CPSU and the SED, between the peoples of the USSR and the GDR grow stronger!

Long live socialism!

Long live peace!

CSSR'S STROUGAL HOSTS POLAND'S MESSNER

LD142118 Moscow TASS in English 2036 GMT 14 Apr 86

[Text] Prague April 14 TASS -- Responsibility for the aggravation of the international situation, for the continued nuclear arms race, for the plans to project it into outer space, and for acts of hegemonism and state terrorism is borne by the imperialist forces and the U.S. Administration, Lubomir Strougal, chairman of the Government of Czechoslovakia, said in his speech at the dinner given today in honour of Zbigniew Messner, Chairman of the Council of Ministers of Poland, who is paying an official visit of friendship to Czechoslovakia.

The historical proposals of the Soviet Union, the initiatives of Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, are irresponsibly rejected in total defiance of reason, Strougal said. Meanwhile, they could help to put an end to nuclear tests and to rid the world of nuclear weapons by the end of this millennium.

This is the state of affairs, Strougal continued, and we should proceed from it as we discuss our defence needs within the Warsaw Treaty Organisation. We will not allow superiority over ourselves and will never agree to inferior security. We will also make every effort in diplomacy, at international conferences and in the United Nations, to carry on the struggle for peace, disarmament, negotiations and peaceful coexistense. There is no alternative.

Messner said in his reply speech that in the current complex international situation the paramount task of all the peoples of the world was to remove the threat of nuclear war and to look for ways to world peace and disarmament. We Poles welcomed and supported with satisfaction the constructive peace proposals of the Soviet Union and its programme for the complete elimination of nuclear weapons and all other types of weapons of mass destruction. Poland, jointly with all the other nations of the world, will continue to oppose the policy pushing the world towards the abyss and energetically to contribute to every action for stronger peace and security for the peoples, Messner said.

GROMYKO CANCELS NORWEGIAN MEETING; HOSPITALIZED WITH FLU

LD161751 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1600 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] The 76-year-old Soviet president, Andrey Gromyko, had to cancel his meeting today with the Norwegian Storting delegation currently visiting Moscow. The Soviet side told the Norwegians that Gromyko has influenza and a high temperature and that he has been taken to the hospital.

EUROPEAN LEADERS VOICE REACTIONS TO LIBYAN RAID

Craxi Notes 'Difficulties'

LD171446 Moscow TASS in English 1401 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Rome April 17 TASS -- Bettino Craxi, the prime minister of Italy, has met with a group of Soviet journalists, who are currently on an official visit here at the invitation of the national council of the Italian journalists' union. The conversation focused on the situation in the Mediterranean after the U.S. military action against Libya. A situation has shaped, whose development it is difficult to foresee and which may prove to be very dangerous, Bettino Craxi said.

The Italian prime minister criticized the United States for disregarding the opinion of the West European countries. There was talk for many years about American-European partnership. But what has happened is directly opposite. In other words, it creates considerable difficulties in our relations, he pointed out. At the same time the Italian prime minister dropped a courtesy to Atlantic solidarity by saying that because of the events around Libya his country will not sharply redraw its alliances and its friendly relations with the United States.

Natta Protests 'Piratic' Action

LD162339 Moscow TASS in English 1232 GMT 15 Apr 86

[Text] Rome April 15 TASS -- Alessandro Natta, general secretary of the Italian Communist Party, has made a protest against the U.S. piratic action against Libya. The American Administration's aggression against Libya was an act of war, he told newsmen today. Natta said that the Reagan government launched the hostilities despite the opinion of Western European countries made known by representatives of the EEC countries, who opposed the use of force.

Italy should in no way be involved in the military action or allow the use of its military facilities and the NATO and American bases on its territory by the U.S. military, the PCI general secretary pointed out. He demanded an immediate end to the American aggression.

Action 'Broadly Condemned' in Greece

LD162115 Moscow TASS in English 0718 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Athens April 16 TASS -- The aggressive actions of the United States against the sovereign Libyan state have been broadly condemned in Greece. Greek Foreign Minister Karolos Papoulias expressed on behalf of the Greek Government profound disappointment over the bandit attack of the U.S. Air Force against Libyan cities and said that the actions of the USA were conducive to a further deterioration of the situation in the Mediterranean. All the political parties and public organizations of Greece have strongly condemned the brutal action of the United States.

Prominent political leaders made statements to the effect that the presence of the U.S. bases on the Greek soil constituted a great threat to the country. Mammoth demonstrations and rallies of protest were held in Athens and Thessaloniki yesterday. In the Greek capital the demonstrators marched through the central streets to the U.S. Embassy chanting slogans: "Americans, get out of the Mediterranean", "Down with the U.S. bases", "Hands off Libya". The demonstrators handed in to a spokesman for the U.S. Embassy a resolution of protest against Washington's foreign policy which creates a threat to peace on earth.

BRITISH GOVERNMENT REBUKED FOR 'COMPLICITY' IN RAID

PM181125 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Apr 86 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "At the USSR Foreign Ministry"]

[Text] A representation was made on 16 April to the British ambassador to the USSR at the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Affairs in connection with Britain's complicity in the U.S. acts of armed aggression against Libya.

A.G. Kovalev, Soviet deputy minister of foreign affairs, told the ambassador that U.S. Air Force bases in British territory are known to have been used by U.S. Air Force planes, with the full consent of the British Government, for the barbarous bombing of Libyan cities, which resulted in human casualties. This makes the British leadership a direct accomplice in the aggressive U.S. action against Libya. So, the British Government shares responsibility for the casualties suffered by the civilian population of Libya, for the heightening of tension in the Mediterranean, and for the negative consequences to the cause of peace and security of the peoples of the area and the world as a whole.

It was pointed out that the stand taken by the British Government obviously contradicts the basic norms of international law. Even more, it does not accord with the fact that Britain, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council, is called upon to bear special responsibility for the maintenance of universal peace and security.

The above-mentioned action against Libya cannot be justified by any reasons. This is a link in the chain of defiant and provocative U.S. actions aimed at frustrating the search for ways to improve international relations and at stifling the positive tendencies and hopes that appeared as a result of the Geneva meeting. The British Government cannot but realize this.

Hope was expressed that the British Government would draw appropriate conclusions from the current situation and would take all measures necessary for an immediate end to aggressive actions against Libya and for the normalization of the situation in the Mediterranean and in international affairs as a whole, as is required by a responsible approach to the present military and political situation in the world.

AUSTRIAN MINISTER DENIES LIBYAN STRIKE 'RUMORS'

LD171007 Moscow TASS in English 0927 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Vienna April 17 TASS -- Austrian Interior Minister Karl Blecha has protested rumors, floated by U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Vernon Walters, that the Libyan Embassy in Vienna is planning to strike at a target in the Austrian capital. He said the Federal Government of Austria "condemns in the most resolute way" the disseminating of such rumors. The Libyan Embassy in Vienna also refuted the rumors, saying they are part of the anti-Libyan smear campaign.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON LIBYAN EVENTS, STATEMENT

Soviet Ships Reported Near Libya

AU171302 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1244 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow - One day after Soviet party chief Gorbachev promised Libya help in "consolidating its defense capability," all embassies in Moscow were informed yesterday that the USSR will fully utilize its right to free movement on the sea and in the air. This was reported by well-informed Western circles in Moscow. A part of the USSR fleet is said to already be off the Libyan coast. The Soviet fleet in the Mediterranean does not have any aircraft carriers. Most likely this is why the right to free movement in airspace was obviously stressed.

Al-Qadhdhafi Visits Hospital

LD180910 Moscow TASS in English 0836 GMT 18 Apr 86

[Text] Tripoli April 18 TASS -- Libyan television today showed a report on a visit by Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, leader of the Libyan revolution, to Tripoli's Central Hospital which took in the wounded victims of the U.S. Air Force raid of Tripoli's residential districts. As the Libyan leader went round the wards, people told him that their will had not been broken and that the killers would never bring the Libyan people to their knees. Al-Qadhdhafi was greeted by people, who chanted "Long live Arab unity" and "Reagan is child murderer."

Kuwait Accepts Invitation to Summit

LD171543 Moscow TASS in English 1458 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Kuwait April 17 TASS -- Kuwait has accepted Libya's invitation to take part in an extraordinary Arab summit to consider measures of counter-acting the American aggression against Libya, KUNA agency reports. The country's Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah has announced that the Secretariat of the League of Arab countries had already been informed of this decision. He expressed the desire for this meeting to be held as soon as possible.

Libyan Leadership Issues Statement

LD171235 Moscow TASS in English 1208 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Tripoli April 17 TASS -- The Libyan people courageously repelling an aggression is countering a crusade of the NATO bloc with the USA at its head, says the statement issued by the revolutionary leadership of the Libyan Jamahiriyah. Libya, it says, has become subject of aggression because of its patriotic positions, because of which the crusade against it by NATO and Israel can be regarded as an aggression against the whole Arab nation.

The statement stresses that the raids from British territory and American aircraft carriers have failed to achieve any aim. Jamahiriyah has not surrendered, has not given up and will not give up its revolutionary principles. The statement urges the Arab states to end all oil supplies to America and those who support it, to announce an economic boycott on them and withdraw Arab deposits from the U.S. banks.

The revolutionary leadership has welcomed the idea of an urgent convocation of an Arab summit meeting, which is to take concrete measures to organise general Arab rebuff to the aggressors.

TOLKUNOV-LED DELEGATION ARRIVES IN TUNISIA

LD171958 Moscow TASS in English 1630 GMT 16 Apr 86

[Text] Tunis April 16 TASS -- A delegation of the USSR Supreme Soviet led by Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, arrived on an official visit of friendship here today at the invitation of the Chamber of Representatives (Tunisia's parliament). The delegation includes Timofey Guzhenko, a deputy to the Soviet of Nationalities and minister of merchant marine of the USSR, Aleksandr Kishlar, a member of the Commission for Environmental Protection and Rational Use of Natural Resources of the Soviet of Nationalities and minister of land improvement and water conservancy of Moldavia, and Composer Arif Melikov, a member of the Commission for Public Education and Culture of the Soviet of the Union.

Working Meeting Held

LD172012 Moscow TASS in English 1915 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Tunis April 21 TASS -- A Soviet parliamentary delegation led by Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R., is staying on a visit in Tunisia. A joint working meeting of the Soviet delegation and members of the National Assembly of Tunisia was held here today. The sides examined the state of parliamentary contacts between the two countries and expressed the desire to develop them further and expand cooperation in different fields.

Lev Tolkunov shared his impressions from the 27th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union (CPSU) with Tunisian MPs. The forum of Soviet Communists, he emphasized, reaffirmed the course of the CPSU toward safeguarding and strengthening peace. This is the aim of the January 15, 1986 Soviet proposals formulating a program for the stage-by-stage elimination of nuclear weapons everywhere in the world till the end of the current century.

The significance and timeliness of the foreign policy principles and peace initiatives taken by the Soviet Union is reaffirmed by the recent aggravation of international tensions caused by the barbaric U.S. raid on Libya, Lev Tolkunov said. The American aggression is an overt challenge to the entire international community. The Soviet Union strongly condemned the piratic U.S. action against that sovereign Arab country and demanded an immediate termination of such action, the head of the Soviet delegation emphasized.

Addressing the Soviet delegation, Mahmoud Messadi, president of the National Assembly of Tunisia, expressed satisfaction at Soviet-Tunisian cooperation which, as he said, "continues to grow stronger and gain scope in the interests of both countries." The exchange of visits of Soviet and Tunisian statesmen and political figures, including the visit of a Tunisian parliamentary delegation to Moscow and the presence of a PSD (Tunisia's Parti Socialist Destourien) delegation at the 27th Congress of the CPSU had a positive impact on the development of cooperation. Tunisia, Mahmoud Messadi emphasized, highly values the stand of the Soviet Union which consistently supports Arab countries and the just cause of the Palestinian people.

On the same day the delegation of the Supreme Soviet of the U.S.S.R. had a meeting with Mahmoud Mestiri, secretary of the state at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia. The delegation also visited the national school of engineering built with the Soviet Union's assistance.

Additional Reportage

For Tunisian coverage of the visit to Tunisia by Lev Tolkunov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Council, see the North Africa section of the 18 April Middle East & Africa DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

IRAQ'S RAMADAN ARRIVES IN MOSCOW, MET BY ARKHIPOV

LD172026 Moscow TASS in English 1926 GMT 17 Apr 86

[Text] Moscow April 17 TASS -- Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolutionary Command Council, first deputy prime minister of the Republic of Iraq, arrived in Moscow today for an official visit. At the airport he was met by Ivan Arkhipov, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the USSR State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, and by other officials. Among the welcoming party was Sa'd 'Abd al-Majid al-Faysal, the ambassador of Iraq to the USSR. Talks between Ivan Arkhipov and Taha Yasin Ramadan began on the same day. Under discussion are matters aimed at further widening economic cooperation between the two countries.

SOVIET PARTY, GOVERNMENT GREET SYRIAN LEADER

PM171401 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Apr 86 First Edition p 1

[Text] To Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, secretary general of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party and president of the Syrian Arab Republic:

The CPSU Central Committee and the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium cordially congratulate you, Comrade President, and the friendly Syrian people on the national holiday -- the 40th anniversary of the evacuation of foreign forces. It can be confidently said that the 4 decades of independent development in Syria, which cast off the oppression by colonialism and put an end to foreign military presence, have transformed the country's appearance, led it to positions of prestige in the world, and enabled the Syrian people to make a considerable contribution to the Arabs' anti-imperialist struggle.

People in the Soviet Union highly value the policy implemented by the leadership of the Syrian Arab Republic, a policy aimed at the implementation of important socioeconomic transformations and the cohesion of the country's progressive and patriotic forces. Syria's consistent anti-imperialist course and its efforts to strengthen the solidarity of Arab peoples in the struggle to attain a fair Near East settlement, against the U.S. and Israeli attempts to impose capitulationist separate deals on the Arabs, have earned it deserved respect and support.

The Soviet Union will continue to stand firmly on the side of the peoples of Syria and the other Arab countries which are resisting Israeli aggression and imperialist interference and struggling to consolidate their national independence. We express confidence that the progressive development of Soviet-Syrian friendship and cooperation on the basis of the 19890 treaty will serve the benefit of our peoples, the cause of strengthening international security, and the establishment of a lasting and fair peace in the Near East.

We wish you, Comrade Hafiz al-Asad, good health and happiness, and progress and prosperity to the friendly Syrian people.

CPSU Central Committee
USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium